

Homer Community School District
Committed to excellence, inspiring greatness, exceeding expectations
Board of Education
Monday, July 13, 2026
7:00 PM

Agenda

- I. **2026-27 Student Fees Hearing**
 - A. Call the hearing to order
 - B. The purpose of the hearing is to review, discuss, consider, and receive input, support, opposition, criticism, and suggestions from patrons relating to the student fees policy.
 - C. Public comment
 - D. Discussion
 - E. Adjourn student fees hearing
- II. **Committee on American Civics**
 - A. Call the hearing to order
 - B. The purpose of the hearing is to review, discuss, consider, and receive input, support, opposition, criticism, and suggestions from patrons regarding American Civics requirements.
 - C. Public comment
 - D. Discussion
 - E. Adjourn American Civics hearing
- III. **Opening the Meeting**
 - A. Call Meeting to Order and Notification of Open Meeting Law
 - i. Posted in the room
 - ii. Publication of Meeting was provided according to 84-1411

B. District Mission Statement:

IV. Board Member Roll Call

V. Excuse Absent Board Members

VI. Pledge of Allegiance

VII. Approval of the Agenda and changes to the Agenda

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes from the June regular meeting

B. Approve claims and accounts

C. Approve new hires

IX. Public Comment

X. Information Items: Reports

A. Administrator reports

B. Superintendent report

XI. Discussion Items

A. Parental Involvement Policy (§ 79-533)

B. Bullying Policy (§ 79-2,137)

C. Wellness Policy (triennially) (7 C.F.R. § 210.31(e))

D. Attendance Policy (§ 79-209(2))

E. Multicultural Policy (§ 79-721)

F. Student Discipline Policy (§ 79-262)

G. Policy update and review

XII. Action Items

- A. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the addition of the Homer Virtual Academy
- B. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the purchase of a van with wheelchair accessibility for \$29,950.
- C. Consider, discuss, and take action to authorize Dr. Joseph Lefdal to apply for all state, and federal funding, including Title I.
- D. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the 2026-27 membership with the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA).
- E. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve Porter & Company, CPA's, P.C. to conduct the 2025-26 District audit.

XIII. Next Meeting

XIV. Adjournment

NOTICES:

COPY OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT: The Board of Education makes available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public.

CHANGES TO ORDER OF AGENDA: The Board will generally follow the sequence of the published agenda but may change the order of items when appropriate and may elect to take action on any of the items listed.

PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Getting Started: When you have been recognized, please stand and state your name.

Time Limit: You may speak only one time and must limit your comments to 5 minutes or less. The total time allotted for Public Comment is 30 minutes. **At the Board's discretion, individual and total comment time may be extended.**

Personnel or Student Topic: If you are planning to speak about a personnel or student matter involving an individual, please understand that our policies require that such concerns initially be directed to the administration for consideration. Board members will generally not respond to any questions you ask or comments you may make about individual staff members or students. You are cautioned that slanderous comments are not protected just because they are made at a Board meeting.

General Rules: Please remember that this is a public meeting for the conduct of the business of the Board of Education. Offensive language, personal attacks and hostile conduct will not be tolerated. **RECORDING OF MEETINGS:** The recording of open sessions of Board of Education meetings by the public is permissible according to section 84-1412 (Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties) of Nebraska law. Any public body may make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the recording of meetings. In accordance with section 84-1410, the recording of closed sessions is not permissible. Board Policy 204.12 and Administrative Regulation 204.12R describe how members of the public may participate in Board of Education meetings and use recording devices. The recording of any part of Board of Education meetings is permissible, except for closed sessions. No recording, other than note taking, shall be done without informing the president in advance. The president has the right to control the placement of the recording device so the device does not obstruct the view of board members or other members of the public attending the meeting and does not otherwise interfere with the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION: The Board may go into closed session for the protection of public interest or prevention of needless harm to an individual.

7-12 Houghton Mifflin

To compare how Houghton Mifflin social studies textbooks align with Nebraska's social studies standards, it's essential to break the evaluation into a few key areas, focusing on the content, grade-level appropriateness, and specific skill and knowledge expectations laid out by the state standards.

Key Focus Areas:

1. Content Alignment:

Nebraska's social studies standards emphasize a well-rounded understanding of history, geography, civics, and economics. Textbooks should align with these four strands while highlighting:

- **American History:** Nebraska requires students to understand the founding and development of the U.S., including key figures, constitutional principles, and major historical events.
- **Geography:** Students must demonstrate spatial awareness, including physical and political maps, and human-environment interactions.
- **Civics and Government:** Nebraska places a strong focus on democratic principles, the Constitution, and the responsibilities of citizenship.
- **Economics:** Key economic principles such as supply and demand, entrepreneurship, and the role of government in the economy are important.

2. Houghton Mifflin Textbooks: Generally, these textbooks offer strong content coverage in American history, world geography, and government, and they often align well with national standards. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) also tailors its curriculum to state standards, including specific adaptations for different regions. For Nebraska, this would likely include localized content related to Nebraska's history, geography, and government.

Potential Gaps or Strengths:

- **State History:** Nebraska's standards emphasize knowledge of state history and regional studies, which may require supplemental materials beyond what's offered in a general textbook from HMH.
- **Contemporary Issues and Civics:** Nebraska's emphasis on current events and civic participation may align well with HMH's recent focus on critical thinking and discussion-based learning.

3. Skill Development: Nebraska's standards emphasize the development of critical thinking, inquiry, and analysis skills. Students are expected to:

- Analyze primary and secondary sources.
- Construct evidence-based arguments.
- Engage in civic discussions and debates.

4. Houghton Mifflin Textbooks: HMH textbooks often incorporate these types of inquiry-based activities. They typically include primary source documents, timelines, and maps for students to analyze, promoting these critical thinking skills. Additionally, they

offer structured activities aimed at developing evidence-based reasoning, which aligns well with Nebraska's goals.

5. **Grade-Level Appropriateness:** Nebraska's standards are organized into grade-specific goals, with particular emphasis on:
 - **Middle Grades:** A deeper dive into American history, world geography, and the foundations of government.
 - **High School:** Comprehensive study of U.S. and world history, government, economics, and geography, preparing students for civic life and post-secondary education.
6. **Houghton Mifflin Textbooks:** HMH offers a range of textbooks for various grade levels, and they are typically aligned with national standards, which have significant overlap with Nebraska's. However, certain state-specific standards might require the inclusion of more regional history and geography at different grade levels.

Potential Gaps or Strengths:

- HMH's broad coverage of U.S. history and government aligns well with Nebraska's high school standards. However, for younger grades, Nebraska's emphasis on local community and state history may require additional state-specific resources.
7. **Civics Focus:** Nebraska standards have a strong civics education component, encouraging students to actively participate in civic life and understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens. The state aims for students to engage in discussions around current events and understand the Constitution and government processes.
Houghton Mifflin Textbooks: HMH incorporates civics education into its social studies curriculum, particularly in middle and high school grades, where students learn about the Constitution, government systems, and political processes. This approach aligns well with Nebraska's focus on democratic principles, though Nebraska's specific emphasis on contemporary civic engagement may require additional, local resources.

Thoughts:

Overall, **Houghton Mifflin social studies textbooks align well with Nebraska's social studies standards** in many key areas, including content coverage in U.S. history, geography, and civics, and the development of critical thinking skills. However, there are a few areas where supplemental materials might be needed, particularly for **Nebraska-specific content** such as state history and geography and the state's particular emphasis on civic participation and contemporary issues. Schools using HMH textbooks may need to integrate **state-specific resources** or additional lessons on Nebraska's unique history and role in the broader context of American history.

This comparison can serve as a guide when evaluating whether or not HMH textbooks need supplementation or adaptation to fully meet Nebraska's educational goals.

Using SIT (Standards Instructional Tool)

Using the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) Standards Instructional Materials Tool, we can assess how well the Houghton Mifflin (HM) social studies textbooks for grades 7-12 align with Nebraska's social studies standards, which cover history, geography, civics, and economics. The evaluation focuses on content alignment, depth, instructional strategies, skills development, assessment, and state-specific content.

1. Standards Alignment

The Nebraska social studies standards for grades 7-12 emphasize a comprehensive understanding of U.S. and world history, government, economics, and geography. They are designed to help students understand the principles of democracy, the role of government, geographic relationships, and economic systems, and how history informs contemporary society.

- **Content Focus:**
 - **History:** Nebraska's standards require in-depth coverage of U.S. and world history, including major historical events, themes, and figures from ancient civilizations to modern times.
 - **Civics and Government:** Students must understand democratic principles, the U.S. Constitution, government structures, and their role as citizens.
 - **Geography:** The standards expect students to interpret geographic data, understand physical and human geography, and analyze geographic patterns.
 - **Economics:** Students must grasp economic principles, including supply and demand, market structures, government's role in the economy, and global economic systems.
- **Houghton Mifflin Textbooks:**

HM textbooks are designed to align with national social studies standards, and many of these overlap with Nebraska's expectations. They typically cover U.S. history in detail, include a strong civics and government component, and emphasize geographic literacy. The economics textbooks from HM also offer robust coverage of micro and macroeconomic principles.

NDE Tool Score: Strong alignment for general content coverage in U.S. and world history, geography, government, and economics. However, state-specific content may require additional materials.

2. Depth and Rigor

Nebraska's social studies standards for grades 7-12 emphasize higher-order thinking skills, requiring students to engage with complex concepts, analyze primary sources, and construct evidence-based arguments.

- Houghton Mifflin Textbooks:
HM's high school textbooks are designed to promote critical thinking and in-depth analysis. They typically include activities that require students to analyze primary and secondary sources, timelines, maps, and charts. These textbooks also encourage students to make connections between historical events and current issues, supporting Nebraska's standards for developing inquiry-based thinking.
NDE Tool Score: High alignment in promoting depth of learning through source analysis, critical thinking, and inquiry. HM textbooks generally support rigorous academic exploration.

3. Instructional Strategies and Student Engagement

Nebraska's instructional materials tool assesses the variety and effectiveness of instructional strategies used to engage students and meet diverse learning needs.

- Houghton Mifflin Textbooks:
HM's textbooks typically provide a variety of instructional strategies, including guided reading, critical thinking questions, debates, and interactive online resources. These strategies are designed to engage students with different learning styles and ensure comprehension of complex topics. They often include multimedia resources and interactive activities, which can enhance student engagement and understanding.
NDE Tool Score: Strong alignment in terms of diverse instructional strategies and student engagement. HM textbooks include a wide array of approaches to keep students engaged in learning.

4. Skills Development

Nebraska's standards require that students develop specific social studies skills, including source evaluation, argumentation, geographic reasoning, and civic participation.

- Source Evaluation: Nebraska places a strong emphasis on analyzing primary and secondary sources, constructing arguments, and evaluating evidence.
- Geographic Skills: Students need to be able to read and interpret maps, graphs, and geographic data to understand spatial relationships and human-environment interactions.
- Civics and Participation: Nebraska's civics standards emphasize understanding democratic principles and engaging in civic discussions.
Houghton Mifflin Textbooks:
HM textbooks typically provide a variety of primary sources, from historical documents to speeches and maps, supporting Nebraska's standards for source evaluation and critical analysis. Geography sections often include case studies, interactive maps, and exercises that build geographic reasoning. The civics materials offer practical lessons on government structure and citizenship, promoting engagement with civic processes.
NDE Tool Score: High alignment in terms of building essential social studies skills. HM

materials align well with Nebraska's focus on critical thinking, geographic literacy, and civic engagement.

5. Assessment

Nebraska's standards expect that instructional materials provide both formative and summative assessments that align with learning objectives and help track student mastery of content and skills.

- Houghton Mifflin Textbooks:
HM textbooks include a wide variety of assessments, such as chapter quizzes, unit tests, writing assignments, and project-based assessments. These assessments are designed to measure not only content knowledge but also students' abilities to apply critical thinking and analysis skills. The online platforms often include adaptive assessments that can help teachers track student progress over time.
NDE Tool Score: Strong alignment in terms of offering aligned assessments that track both content mastery and skills development.

6. Cultural Representation and Diversity

Nebraska's standards emphasize the inclusion of diverse cultures, perspectives, and experiences, ensuring that students understand multiple viewpoints and cultural contexts.

- Houghton Mifflin Textbooks:
HM textbooks typically include diverse perspectives, especially in U.S. history and world history materials. These textbooks often incorporate the stories and contributions of historically marginalized groups, such as women, Indigenous peoples, and other minority groups, promoting a broader understanding of history and society.
NDE Tool Score: High alignment in terms of cultural representation. HM materials generally reflect diverse perspectives, which aligns with Nebraska's standards for teaching cultural awareness.

7. Local and State Content

Nebraska's standards require the integration of local and state history, particularly in the middle school and high school grades. Understanding Nebraska's role in national and global contexts is essential.

- Houghton Mifflin Textbooks:
HM textbooks may not include extensive content specific to Nebraska's history, government, or economy. While they provide strong coverage of U.S. history and government in general, Nebraska-specific lessons (such as in government and local economics) may require additional resources or supplements.
NDE Tool Score: Moderate alignment. While HM textbooks provide comprehensive coverage of national and global topics, state-specific content may be lacking. Schools

will likely need to supplement with local resources or Nebraska-specific lessons to meet this requirement fully.

Conclusion Using the NDE Instructional Materials Tool:

Houghton Mifflin's social studies textbooks for grades 7-12 align well with Nebraska's social studies standards in most categories. They provide comprehensive content in U.S. and world history, geography, government, and economics, and they support the development of critical thinking, source analysis, and civic engagement. The instructional strategies are diverse, engaging, and effective for promoting in-depth learning, while the assessments are well-aligned with Nebraska's learning goals.

However, there is a potential gap in Nebraska-specific content, particularly in areas like state history, government, and economics. While Houghton Mifflin offers a strong foundation in national and global topics, teachers may need to supplement with local resources to fully address Nebraska's standards for state and local content.

Overall, Houghton Mifflin textbooks score highly in most areas using the NDE Instructional Materials Tool but may require additional Nebraska-specific materials to ensure full alignment with state standards.

K-5 Studies Weekly

When comparing "**Studies Weekly**" for elementary social studies to Nebraska's social studies standards, the focus will be on content alignment, grade-level appropriateness, and skill-building, particularly for K-5 students.

Key Focus Areas:

1. Content Alignment:

Nebraska's elementary social studies standards focus on early foundations in history, geography, civics, and economics, progressively introducing concepts that students revisit in greater detail in later grades.

Studies Weekly:

"Studies Weekly" provides a weekly newspaper-style format that integrates U.S. history, geography, government, and economics into grade-specific content. It tends to align with national standards, offering a well-rounded introduction to key social studies concepts.

- **American History:** Nebraska emphasizes the foundations of U.S. history, including early civilizations, exploration, colonization, and the founding of the

nation. "Studies Weekly" introduces students to these themes, often with accessible language and engaging articles.

- **Nebraska History:** Nebraska's standards require students to learn about the state's history, symbols, and geography, especially in the 4th grade. **Studies Weekly** offers some state-specific editions, and Nebraska's version may include tailored content covering local history, state government, and significant Nebraska figures.
- **Geography:** Nebraska standards include understanding spatial relationships, maps, and basic geography skills. "Studies Weekly" often incorporates activities and lessons on reading maps and understanding geographic features, aligning well with these goals.
- **Civics:** Nebraska emphasizes understanding democratic principles, citizenship, and basic government structures starting at a young age. "Studies Weekly" typically includes civics-focused content in each grade level, offering lessons on government functions and civic responsibilities.

2. **Potential Gaps or Strengths:**

- **State-Specific Content:** If "Studies Weekly" provides a Nebraska-specific edition, the alignment is likely strong, particularly in the 4th-grade study of Nebraska history. Without state-specific editions, additional resources may be necessary to cover all Nebraska-focused content.

3. **Skill Development:** Nebraska standards emphasize the development of skills like critical thinking, source analysis, map reading, and inquiry-based learning from an early age.

Studies Weekly:

"Studies Weekly" offers interactive features like primary source documents, analysis questions, and activities that promote critical thinking and discussion. The weekly quizzes and hands-on projects can support Nebraska's inquiry-based learning approach. The format of short, engaging articles encourages students to develop comprehension and retention skills.

Potential Gaps or Strengths:

- **Inquiry-Based Learning:** "Studies Weekly" encourages students to ask questions and engage with the material, which aligns well with Nebraska's inquiry-based learning model.
- **Source Analysis:** The weekly format often includes activities that ask students to analyze primary sources or answer questions based on what they've read, supporting the critical thinking and analysis components of Nebraska's standards.

4. **Grade-Level Appropriateness:** Nebraska organizes its social studies standards into grade-level expectations, starting with community, citizenship, and basic geography in early grades and progressing to more complex historical and government-related concepts in upper elementary.

Studies Weekly:

- **Kindergarten to 2nd Grade:** "Studies Weekly" aligns well with Nebraska's focus on basic community roles, national symbols, and simple geography. It provides

lessons on community helpers, American holidays, and symbols like the flag, which match Nebraska's early social studies goals.

- **3rd Grade:** Nebraska's 3rd-grade standards emphasize national history and geography, including understanding continents, oceans, and early American history. "Studies Weekly" covers basic U.S. history and geographic concepts, which aligns with these goals.
- **4th Grade:** Nebraska's 4th-grade standards focus heavily on state history. If "Studies Weekly" offers a Nebraska edition, it likely covers this in detail. Without a Nebraska-specific version, additional resources on Nebraska history and geography may be needed.
- **5th Grade:** Nebraska's standards in 5th grade focus on early U.S. history, including exploration, colonization, and the Revolutionary War. "Studies Weekly" provides a strong foundation in these areas, often covering similar content in its weekly format.

5. **Potential Gaps or Strengths:**

- **Local History:** While "Studies Weekly" generally covers national history well, the degree of alignment with Nebraska's focus on state-specific history, especially in the 4th grade, depends on the availability of a Nebraska-specific edition.

6. **Civics and Citizenship:** Nebraska's elementary social studies standards place a strong emphasis on teaching the principles of citizenship, government structures, and the roles and responsibilities of individuals in a democracy.

Studies Weekly:

"Studies Weekly" often includes civics content in each issue, addressing the basics of government, democratic values, and what it means to be a good citizen. This aligns well with Nebraska's standards for teaching students about civic engagement and responsibility.

Potential Gaps or Strengths:

- **Engagement:** "Studies Weekly" promotes civic engagement through activities like mock elections or discussions about current events, which aligns with Nebraska's goals of fostering active and informed citizens from a young age.

Thoughts:

"Studies Weekly" aligns well with Nebraska's elementary social studies standards in terms of content coverage, skill-building, and fostering civic engagement. If the school district can access Nebraska-specific editions, this will ensure that 4th-grade standards focused on state history and geography are fully met. For younger grades, the emphasis on national history, community, and government closely aligns with Nebraska's expectations. Some minor supplementation with state-specific materials may be needed for full compliance, especially in state history, but overall, "Studies Weekly" provides a comprehensive and engaging resource that is well-suited to Nebraska's standards.

Using SIT (Standards Instructional Tool)

To evaluate the alignment of "**Studies Weekly**" with Nebraska's social studies standards using the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) **Instructional Materials Tool**, we will break down the comparison into the categories the tool emphasizes. This tool helps assess how well instructional materials align with the Nebraska standards, with a focus on content, skills, and teaching methods across grade levels.

Here's an analysis of "Studies Weekly" based on categories outlined by the NDE tool:

1. Standards Alignment

This category assesses how closely materials align with the core content of Nebraska's social studies standards, focusing on key domains: history, geography, civics, and economics.

- **Content Focus:**

"Studies Weekly" generally covers the four major strands of social studies required by Nebraska:

- **History:** Includes content on U.S. history, covering exploration, colonization, and key historical events.
- **Geography:** Lessons include map skills and geographic features, which align with Nebraska's emphasis on spatial understanding.
- **Civics:** "Studies Weekly" promotes civics knowledge and democratic principles at every grade level, matching Nebraska's push for civic education.
- **Economics:** Elementary concepts of needs, wants, and economic decision-making are introduced, which are aligned with state standards.

- **NDE Tool Score:** High alignment for foundational content, with Nebraska-specific content integrated where available.

2. Depth and Rigor

Nebraska standards expect students to engage deeply with the material, especially through inquiry-based learning, source analysis, and critical thinking.

- **Studies Weekly** encourages students to engage in source analysis through primary documents, historical photos, and interactive activities. Weekly quizzes and projects ask students to reflect critically on what they've learned, supporting the inquiry-based approach Nebraska promotes.

NDE Tool Score: Strong alignment in encouraging depth of learning through critical thinking and analysis of sources. This meets Nebraska's inquiry-based learning goals.

3. Instructional Strategies and Student Engagement

Nebraska's instructional tool emphasizes the importance of diverse instructional strategies to meet the needs of all learners, including differentiation, student engagement, and interactive activities.

- **Student Engagement:** "Studies Weekly" uses a newspaper format that is highly engaging for elementary students, with articles, activities, and graphics tailored to younger learners. The interactive nature of the weekly issues aligns with Nebraska's focus on engaging students with hands-on activities.
- **Differentiation:** "Studies Weekly" offers different levels of reading material and supplemental online resources, which can help teachers adjust lessons based on student ability. The NDE tool emphasizes differentiated instruction, and the multiple formats available with "Studies Weekly" support this.

NDE Tool Score: High engagement, with interactive and differentiated activities that meet various learner needs.

4. Skills Development

Nebraska's standards require the development of specific social studies skills, including critical thinking, analysis, decision-making, and collaboration.

- **Studies Weekly** promotes skill-building in a number of ways:
 - **Map Skills:** Nebraska standards place strong emphasis on geography and map reading, and "Studies Weekly" incorporates maps, globes, and geographic discussions into lessons.
 - **Source Analysis:** Primary sources, timelines, and images are used for critical thinking activities, which align with Nebraska's standards on historical analysis.
 - **Civic Responsibility:** The materials encourage civic participation and discussion of democratic values, which is a core component of Nebraska's civics standards.
- **NDE Tool Score:** Strong alignment in developing key social studies skills, particularly in historical analysis, civic engagement, and geography.

5. Assessment

The NDE tool assesses whether instructional materials provide adequate assessment tools that align with learning objectives and support mastery of Nebraska standards.

- **Formative and Summative Assessment:** "Studies Weekly" includes weekly quizzes, writing prompts, and discussion-based questions, allowing for both formative and summative assessments. These align with Nebraska's focus on assessing content knowledge, as well as the critical thinking and analysis skills students are expected to develop.
- **NDE Tool Score:** High alignment for providing frequent, aligned assessments that measure mastery of key standards.

6. Cultural Representation and Diversity

The NDE tool evaluates how well instructional materials reflect diverse cultures, perspectives, and experiences, ensuring that all students see themselves represented in the curriculum.

- **Studies Weekly** incorporates multiple perspectives in its articles, often including stories and lessons on historically marginalized groups, civil rights movements, and different cultures. This diversity in representation aligns with Nebraska's standards for teaching cultural awareness and respect for different perspectives.

NDE Tool Score: High alignment in representing diverse cultures and perspectives, which is essential for meeting Nebraska's cultural awareness standards.

7. Local and State Content

Nebraska's standards emphasize state-specific history, geography, and government, particularly in the 4th grade when students focus on Nebraska history.

- **State-Specific Content:** If using a Nebraska-specific edition of "Studies Weekly," the content will likely include information about Nebraska's history, government, and geography, which is crucial for meeting the state's specific standards. If the edition lacks state-specific content, supplemental materials will be needed to ensure full alignment.

NDE Tool Score: Depends on availability of Nebraska-specific editions. If available, this will ensure full alignment with local standards; if not, some gaps may exist, especially in 4th grade.

Conclusion Using the NDE Instructional Materials Tool:

"Studies Weekly" aligns well with Nebraska's social studies standards, scoring highly across most categories of the NDE Instructional Materials Tool. It provides engaging, rigorous content, promotes key skills like critical thinking and source analysis, and includes assessments that support mastery of standards. The inclusion of diverse perspectives ensures cultural alignment, and the flexible instructional strategies meet the needs of various learners.

However, **state-specific content is a key factor**. If Nebraska-specific editions are available, "Studies Weekly" will fully align with the state's expectations, particularly in 4th grade when students focus on Nebraska's history and geography. If a Nebraska edition is not available, teachers may need to supplement with additional materials to cover local content.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Tuesday, June 9, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Education of Homer Community School was convened in open and public session on Tuesday, June 9, 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: Absent, 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

Motion was made by Byron Hall and seconded by Dr. Kristina Nelsen to excuse absent board member Kirkholm. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried
Byron Hall: Yea, Ryan Harris: Yea, Samantha Johnson: Yea, Tyler Kirkholm: Absent, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Yea, Paul Tighe: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

III. Excuse Absent Board Members

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

V. Approval of the Agenda and changes to the Agenda

Motion was made by Ryan Harris 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: Absent, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Yea, Paul Tighe: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VI.Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Samantha Johnson and seconded by Dr. Kristina Nelsen 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: Absent, Dr. Kristina Nelsen: Yea, Paul Tighe: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

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

VI.B.Approve claims and accounts

VII.Public Comment

There was none.

VIII.Information Items: Reports

VIII.A.Administrator reports

Work continues on finalizing NDE verification reports throughout the summer. Professional development efforts are focused on instructional rigor, ELA, standards unpacking, collective efficacy, and student engagement, with support from ESU 1 and new curriculum training. Preparations for the 2026-27 school year are underway, including in-service days, safety drills, attendance initiatives, Registration Night, and Open House. Staff trainings are being coordinated, and the elementary master schedule is being finalized to ensure adequate instructional time for the new ELA curriculum.

VIII.B.Superintendent report

The board reviewed several district updates, including compliance requirements related to special education funding and ongoing efforts to ensure all federal and state requirements are met. Attendance trends were discussed, along with strategies to continue improving student attendance across all grade levels. The board also received an update on the development of the district's virtual school program and progress toward implementation. Enrollment and attendance data were reviewed as part of ongoing planning for the upcoming school year. Additionally, the board discussed current enrollment trends and athletic participation numbers as the district continues preparations for the 2026-27 school year.

IX.Discussion Items

X.Action Items

X.A.Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the 2026-27 school lunch prices.

Discussion was held regarding the impact different lunch prices would have on the lunch program. Rising food costs are a large factor.

Motion was made by Byron Hall and seconded by Ryan Harris to increase breakfast prices .25 to \$2.50 and lunch prices .50 for elementary and high school and adult prices. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

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

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

X.B.Consider, discuss, and take action to approve annual insurance coverage.

Different insurance possibilities were looked into. ALICAP came in significantly lower than EMC at about \$49,100 in savings.

Motion was made by Byron Hall and seconded by Dr. Kristina Nelsen to approve ALICAP

for our annual insurance coverage. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

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

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

X.C.Consider, discuss, and take action to approve staff trainings for the 2026-27 school year.

Dr. Lefdal shared all the staff trainings for the year staff will need to complete.

Motion was made by Samantha Johnson and seconded by Byron Hall to approve staff trainings for the 2026-27 school year. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

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

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

X.D.Consider, discuss, and take action on Policy Updates for 2026-27

Dr. Lefdal have an overview of all the policy updates.

Motion was made by Byron Hall and seconded by Ryan Harris to approve Policy Updates for the 2026-27 school year. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

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

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XI.Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday, July 13th at 7:00 pm.

XII.Adjournment

Motion was made by Samantha Johnson and seconded by Dr. Kristina Nelsen to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. On roll call vote the Board voted as follows: The motion carried

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

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Dated this Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

ATTEST:
Dr. Kristina Nelsen
Secretary

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

Board Report - Board

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01	GENERAL FUND	
Amplify Education, Inc.	472304	Amplify - mCLASS - Reading and Math K-8	5,438.36
Total Amplify Education, Inc.			5,438.36
AT&T	07112026-0001	Long Distance	78.52
Total AT&T			78.52
Bomgaars	15888400	Supplies	68.45
Total Bomgaars			68.45
Carolina Biological Supply	53477790	science supplies	590.83
Total Carolina Biological Supply			590.83
Century Link	06132026-0001	Long Distance	327.04
Total Century Link			327.04
Climate Systems Inc	22554	Work on shorted wire in building	742.50
Total Climate Systems Inc			742.50
Dakota County Star	1179,1230,1257	Publish Minutes and Notice	133.62
Total Dakota County Star			133.62
Department of Health and Human Services	05132026	MIPS Program	1,010.31
Total Department of Health and Human Services			1,010.31
Eakes Office Solutions	780672-0001	vac parts	165.46
Eakes Office Solutions	787947-0001	Copier Service	1,087.28
Total Eakes Office Solutions			1,252.74
Elite Metal Tools	34102	Perkins Grant	10,549.00
Elite Metal Tools	V*34102	Perkins Grant	(10,549.00)
Total Elite Metal Tools			0.00
Esu #1	10785	Quarterly Billing	75,370.50
Esu #1	13735,13746,13753	Workshops	165.00
Total Esu #1			75,535.50
First National Bank Omaha	07072026	Supplies	1,331.10
First National Bank Omaha	2026233	Stage Lights Replacement Bulbs	41.29
First National Bank Omaha	2026237	B. ball nets	38.76
First National Bank Omaha	2026238	Black Jump Ropes	38.08
First National Bank Omaha	2026245	Auto Flusher/ Flush Handles	353.85
First National Bank Omaha	2026264	Nursing Supplies for 26-27	561.83
First National Bank Omaha	2026265	Office Supplies for 26-27	400.56
First National Bank Omaha	2026270	spray cleaner	67.00
First National Bank Omaha	26224	tables	499.90
Total First National Bank Omaha			3,332.37
Gill Hauling	4799840T13-0001	trash removal	1,001.75
Total Gill Hauling			1,001.75
Gopher	521447	PE Equipment	986.06
Total Gopher			986.06

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
Hillyard / Sioux Falls Branch	90175225	pop up wipes	522.80
Hillyard / Sioux Falls Branch	90204903	Cleaners	402.38
Hillyard / Sioux Falls Branch	90204904	Floor Waxing Products	1,178.72
Total Hillyard / Sioux Falls Branch			2,103.90
Hoffman's Hoops Academy	06102026	BB Camp	3,181.00
Total Hoffman's Hoops Academy			3,181.00
Innovative Office Solutions, LLC	SO-4919816	Office Supplies	259.16
Total Innovative Office Solutions, LLC			259.16
Interstate Battery Center #9136	1913601042540	Supplies	37.90
Total Interstate Battery Center #9136			37.90
J & J Pronto	05312026-0001	Fuel	3,128.52
J & J Pronto	06302026-0001	Fuel	1,068.77
Total J & J Pronto			4,197.29
Lakeshore Learning Materials LLC	93875226	First Grade Journals	238.97
Total Lakeshore Learning Materials LLC			238.97
Lefdal, Joseph	07012026	Phone Reimbursement	300.00
Total Lefdal, Joseph			300.00
Menards	93348,92899	Custodial Supplies	1,134.75
Total Menards			1,134.75
Mid-bell Music, Inc	11027253	Band Supplies	264.87
Total Mid-bell Music, Inc			264.87
Midwest Honda Suzuki Kubota	10277379	mower wheels	292.13
Total Midwest Honda Suzuki Kubota			292.13
Mystery Science	SP-27979	Mystery Science Packs K-4	2,000.00
Total Mystery Science			2,000.00
NASB Alicap	06102026	Premium 6/10 - through 8/31	23,600.00
Total NASB Alicap			23,600.00
Nebraska Dept of Labor	05302026	Unemployment claim	1,116.25
Total Nebraska Dept of Labor			1,116.25
Nebraska Public Power Distric	07092026-0001	Electric	3,612.86
Total Nebraska Public Power Distric			3,612.86
Nebraska Rural Community School Association	1700	Membership Dues	850.00
Total Nebraska Rural Community School Association			850.00
Paper 101	294139-00	Paper	1,904.62
Total Paper 101			1,904.62

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
Parker, Amelia	052026	May Mileage	90.88
Total Parker, Amelia			90.88
Perma-Bound	2039131-02	Book Order	315.01
Total Perma-Bound			315.01
Perry Guthery Haase & Gessfor	197	legal Fees	323.00
Total Perry Guthery Haase & Gessfor			323.00
PowerSchool Group LLC	487374	Hosting and Maintenance of SIS	7,942.49
Total PowerSchool Group LLC			7,942.49
Pye-Barker	00387716	Fire Inspection	1,219.00
Total Pye-Barker			1,219.00
Rochester 100 Inc.	0039972	Communicator Folders for Elementary	420.00
Total Rochester 100 Inc.			420.00
Sander, Caleb	22	Piano Tuning	464.50
Total Sander, Caleb			464.50
School Specialty LLC	308104875050	Office Supplies	158.51
Total School Specialty LLC			158.51
Sherwin Williams	3508-7,1502-5	paint	275.62
Total Sherwin Williams			275.62
Signs By Tomorrow	3068	Val/Sal decals Door Sign	33.00
Total Signs By Tomorrow			33.00
Siouxland Lock & Key	22652,22468	Keys	51.35
Total Siouxland Lock & Key			51.35
Software Unlimited, Inc.	20260628-160,	Yearly Accounting Software Fee/Hosting	11,370.00
Total Software Unlimited, Inc.			11,370.00
Staples Advantage	6066825126	Office Supplies	2,239.59
Total Staples Advantage			2,239.59
Sterling Computers	20260707		4,313.64
Total Sterling Computers			4,313.64
Teaching Strategies, LLC	Q-377493	Teaching Strategies - GOLD for Preschool	481.10
Total Teaching Strategies, LLC			481.10
Thompson Electric Company	105211	replaced power supply in DSX system	547.53
Total Thompson Electric Company			547.53
Troy's Auto World	2124,2128	Labor on Mini and Big vans	636.00
Total Troy's Auto World			636.00
Village Of Homer	07152026-0001	Water	503.50

Board Report - Board

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
Total Village Of Homer			503.50
Walker, Rhianna	05302026	January-May Mileage	204.80
Total Walker, Rhianna			204.80
Western Iowa Tech Comm Coll	9427	CPR Training	54.00
Total Western Iowa Tech Comm Coll			54.00
Wilmes Hardware Hank	1809008,1810648	Supplies	46.52
Total Wilmes Hardware Hank			46.52
Wireless Links	30-202606--0001	Bus supplies	60.60
Total Wireless Links			60.60
WoodRiver Energy, LLC	505890-0001	Natural Gas	753.88
Total WoodRiver Energy, LLC			753.88
Fund Number 01			168,096.27
Checking Account ID 1			168,096.27

General Fund Account Balances – July 2026

Receipts:

(Received since last board meeting)

First Community Bank – Interest	287.89
Dakota & Thurston County Treasurer – Taxes from last month	96,976.51
State of NE – State Aid	218,961.00
BCBS Settlement	34,934.00
State of NE – SPED Transportation	18,466.57
ESU#2 – Cultural Book Grant	4,612.37

Balance in General Fund Checking (7/1/2026)	745,540.10
Balance in General Fund Petty Cash (7/1/2026)	1,039.48
General Fund Balance	746,579.58

General Fund Checking Balance as of July 1, 2026	745,540.10
July Accounts Payable Expenses	- 152,389.37
July Payroll Expense (Inc payroll deductions)	- 451,243.29
July To Be Deposited	+ 37,609.37
Estimated Balance End of July	179,516.81

Hot Lunch Program Balance June, 2026

Hot Lunch Balance as of June 1, 2026	\$ 9,762.48
Expenses to clear the bank in June	- 21,317.18
June Deposits	+ 0
June Journal Entries for RET, SIT and FIT	- 6,516.77
June GF Reimbursement	+ 18,516.77
Balance End of June	\$ 445.43

July Lunch Payroll	\$ 10,499.87
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Activity Account Balance – June, 2026

Beginning bank balance as of June, 2026	\$ 77,662.86
June expenditures	- 12,108.92
June deposits	+ 898.24
Balance End of June	\$ 66,452.18

Building Fund: (Used for Improvements)

Balance in Building Fund Passbook (6-1-26)	\$ 168,170.31
Interest	371.48
Dakota and Thurston County Treasurer	9,936.68

June Ending Balance \$ 178,478.47

QCPUF Fund

Balance in QCPUF (6-1-26)	\$ 244,256.86
Less Check to First Community Bank	6,690.07
Interest	505.15

June Ending Balance \$ 238,071.94

Depreciation Fund: (Used for Replacement)

Balance in Depreciation Fund Balance (6-1-26)	\$ 222,206.91
Less Check to Hillyard (auto-scrubber payment)	493.05
Less Check to FNB Omaha (replace Garmin watches)	429.97
Interest	466.55

June Ending Balance \$ 221,750.44

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Total Collections

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
September	800,659	698,595	725,802	621,845
October	316,779	466,618	652,282	581,143
November	519,791	221,093	698,727	377,554
December	275,982	346,820	703,572	551,411
January	1,130,286	1,324,358	869,749	984,461
February	588,149	524,431	854,291	581,917
March	332,046	485,652	532,020	779,376
April	574,028	513,032	492,355	513,319
May	855,633	996,973	1,400,457	1,409,042
June	429,134	489,487	554,793	374,238
July	48,640	84,226	69,485	
August	417,695	93,457	119,103	
TOTALS	6,288,821	6,244,744	7,672,635	6,774,307

Tax Collections

	2022-2023	% of Total	2023-2024	% of Total	2024-2025	% of Total	2025-2026	% of Total
September	600,231	74.97%	504,135	72.16%	505,420	69.64%	401,069	64.50%
October	116,402	36.75%	108,401	23.23%	143,002	21.92%	156,284	26.89%
November	35,932	6.91%	29,497	13.34%	29,152	4.17%	41,306	10.94%
December	25,912	9.39%	25,976	7.49%	39,247	5.58%	22,138	4.01%
January	889,616	78.71%	991,893	74.90%	516,753	59.41%	616,500	62.62%
February	214,253	36.43%	228,350	43.54%	655,772	76.76%	266,173	45.74%
March	59,157	17.82%	70,956	14.61%	36,784	6.91%	471,515	60.50%
April	347,686	60.57%	232,260	45.27%	191,916	38.98%	200,109	38.98%
May	591,358	69.11%	706,690	70.88%	1,194,987	85.33%	1,092,872	77.56%
June	135,466	31.57%	173,628	35.47%	146,425	26.39%	96,977	25.91%
July	40,059	82.36%	28,798	34.19%	36,411	52.40%		#DIV/0!
August	49,150	11.77%	33,418	35.76%	44,348	37.23%		#DIV/0!
TOTALS	3,105,221	49.38%	3,134,003	50.19%	3,540,218	46.14%	3,364,943	49.67%

State Aid

	2022-2023	% of Total	2023-2024	% of Total	2024-2025	% of Total	2025-2026	% of Total
September	199,203	24.88%	191,609	27.43%	201,069	27.70%	218,964	35.21%
October	195,724	61.79%	185,008	39.65%	200,874	30.80%	218,964	37.68%
November	195,724	37.65%	185,008	83.68%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
December	195,724	70.92%	185,008	53.34%	401,748	57.10%	437,928	79.42%
January	195,724	17.32%	185,008	13.97%	200,874	23.10%	218,964	22.24%
February	195,724	33.28%	185,008	35.28%	0	0.00%	218,964	37.63%
March	195,724	58.94%	185,008	38.09%	401,748	75.51%	218,964	28.09%
April	195,724	34.10%	185,008	36.06%	200,874	40.80%	218,964	42.66%
May	195,724	22.87%	185,008	18.56%	200,874	14.34%	218,964	15.54%
June	195,719	45.61%	185,004	37.80%	200,873	36.21%	218,961	58.51%
July								
August								
TOTALS	1,960,714	31.18%	1,856,677	29.73%	2,008,934	26.18%	2,189,637	32.32%

Homer Community Schools July, 2026

Function Number		Revised Budget	Expended During Month	Expenditures to Date	% of Budget
01					
1100	REGULAR INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS	3,721,460.00	291,329.76	3,244,364.58	87.65
1125	REGULAR INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS SCHOOL AG	60,284.00	0.00	263.30	0.44
1150	LIMITED ENGLISH PROF PROGRAMS	22,380.00	1,312.30	14,327.34	64.02
1160	PROVERTY PROGRAMS	523,200.00	32,442.50	507,420.93	96.98
1190	EARLY CHILDHOOD ED PROGRAMS	14,010.00	481.10	2,554.72	18.23
1200	SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS	500,000.00	42,456.77	681,372.01	136.27
1300	SUMMER SCHOOL	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2120	GUIDANCE SERVICES	178,000.00	10,811.88	122,603.79	68.88
2130	HEALTH SERVICES	76,000.00	1,010.31	3,652.42	4.81
2141	PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES SPED SCHOOL AGE	80,000.00	29,250.00	117,000.00	146.25
2151	SPEECH & AUDIOLOGY SERV SPED SCHOOL AGE	110,000.00	29,212.50	109,312.50	99.38
2161	OT SERVICES SPED SCHOOL AGE	8,000.00	1,083.75	6,980.62	87.26
2171	PT SERVICES SPED SCHOOL AGE	0.00	471.25	3,697.50	0.00
2181	VISION SERVICES SPED SCHOOL AGE	0.00	(0.50)	24.50	0.00
2213	INST STAFF TRAINING	0.00	30.00	14,577.10	0.00
2220	LIBRARY/MEDIA SERVICES	175,000.00	8,454.52	129,278.12	73.87
2290	Retirement incentive	0.00	0.00	18,567.45	0.00
2320	EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION	290,000.00	18,143.11	219,097.19	75.55
2410	OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL	410,000.00	30,766.13	347,773.70	84.82
2510	GENERAL ADMIN-BUSINESS SERVICE	200,000.00	24,860.68	160,869.06	80.68
2520	PURCH, WARE, AND DIST SERVICES	0.00	0.00	330.00	0.00
2530	PRINT, PUB, DUP SERVICES	0.00	0.00	1,610.70	0.00
2570	PERSONNEL SERVICES	0.00	104.00	402.00	0.00
2610	SUPPORT SERVICES OPERATION OF BUILDING	513,000.00	52,014.31	397,606.52	78.87
2650	VEHICLE OPP, ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2660	SECURITY	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2710	VEHICLE OPP & PURCH REG ED	389,601.00	5,076.44	241,709.31	62.04
2712	VEHICLE OPP & PURCH SCHOOL AGE SPED	0.00	0.00	10,420.64	0.00
3535	HIGH ABILITY LEARNERS	14,000.00	0.00	803.94	5.74
5000	DEBT SERVICES	0.00	0.00	237,550.43	0.00
6200	TITLE I, PART A ESSA IMP BASIC BY LOCAL	199,000.00	11,074.21	119,646.98	60.12
6408	6408	103,000.00	9,045.00	50,481.00	49.01
6700	FED VOC & APP TECH ED (CARL PERKINS)	10,000.00	0.00	9,021.70	90.22
6990	OTHER FED CATEGORICAL RECEIPTS	0.00	0.00	7,771.71	0.00
6992	REAP	45,000.00	4,313.64	8,469.24	19.53
6997	6997	5,000.00	0.00	9,825.00	196.50
8000	TRANSFERS (OUTGOING)	165,065.00	0.00	148,553.86	90.00
9000	NON-PROGRAM EXPENDITURES	0.00	0.00	(1,000.00)	0.00
Totals		7,870,000.00	603,743.66	6,946,939.86	88.59