

April 6, 2026
Committee Meeting Board of Education
6:30 PM

The Board of Education District 54-0586, Bloomfield Community Schools, met in Committee Session on April 6, 2026 in High School, Room 14. Dee Bratetic: Present, Brady Folck: Present, Justin Jindra: Present, Casey Schmeckpeper: Absent, Deb Wragge: Present, Hally Ziegler: Absent.

1.

1.a.

1.b. Motion by Justin Jindra, seconded by Brady Folck, to approve the absences of BOE members, Casey Schmeckpeper and Hally Ziegler, from this COW Meeting.

Dee Bratetic: Yea, Brady Folck: Yea, Justin Jindra: Yea, Casey Schmeckpeper: Absent, Deb Wragge: Yea, Hally Ziegler: Absent Motion: Carried

1.c.

1.d.

1.e.

1.f.

2.

2.a.

2.b. Motion by Brady Folck, seconded by Dee Bratetic, to approve of the formation of a Dance Team for the 2026-27 School Year.

Dee Bratetic: Yea, Brady Folck: Yea, Justin Jindra: Yea, Casey Schmeckpeper: Absent, Deb Wragge: Yea, Hally Ziegler: Absent Motion: Carried

3.

3.a.

3.b.

3.b.i.

3.b.i.1.

3.b.ii.

3.b.iii.

3.c.

3.d.

3.e.

3.e.i.

3.e.ii.

3.e.ii.1.

4.

4.a.

5.

6.

7. Motion by Justin Jindra, seconded by Brady Folck, to adjourn this COW Meeting of the Bloomfield Community Schools Board of Education at 8:33 pm. The Americanism Committee will meet on April 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., immediately prior to the regular meeting of the Bloomfield Community Schools Board of Education, which will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the same date.

Dee Bratetic: Yea, Brady Folck: Yea, Justin Jindra: Yea, Casey Schmeckpeper: Absent, Deb Wragge: Yea, Hally Ziegler: Absent Motion: Carried



Deb Wragge <dwragge@blfdbees.org>

April 6th COW

2 messages

Casey Schmeckpeper <cschmeckpeper@blfdbees.org>
To: Deb Wragge <dwragge@blfdbees.org>

Tue, Mar 31, 2026 at 9:06 AM

Hi Ded. I am letting you know that I will be out of town from Thursday until Monday afternoon. Letting you know because we are taking an quick Easter family vacation down to our condo in Mexico. I plan on being at the COW meeting if ALL of the TSA workers show up and keeps us on schedule. I will send over my views on the the West Point meeting we all attended also here today.

Thanks Casey

Deb Wragge <dwragge@blfdbees.org>
To: Casey Schmeckpeper <cschmeckpeper@blfdbees.org>

Tue, Mar 31, 2026 at 9:17 AM

Thank you for the heads up. Enjoy your trip. Hopefully, the TSA will be able to get you through in a timely manner. We will act according.
Deb

Deb Wragge, President
Bloomfield Community Schools Board of Education, Bloomfield, NE 68718
A - 87486 540 Ave; Creighton, NE 68729
E - dwragge@blfdbees.org
Phone/ Text - 402-841-6972
[Quoted text hidden]



Deb Wragge <dwragge@bldbees.org>

BOE Meeting 4/6/26

2 messages

Hally Ziegler <hziegler@bldbees.org>
To: Todd Strom <tstrom@bldbees.org>, Deb Wragge <dwragge@bldbees.org>

Fri, Apr 3, 2026 at 1:24 PM

Good afternoon,

Wanted to send this before I forget, but I won't be at the meeting Monday night as that is my dad's visitation
Thank you

Hally Ziegler

Deb Wragge <dwragge@bldbees.org>
To: Hally Ziegler <hziegler@bldbees.org>
Cc: Todd Strom <tstrom@bldbees.org>

Fri, Apr 3, 2026 at 2:59 PM

Thank you for letting us know! We will miss you. Hugs. ❤️

I will post your request to be absent for the April 6th COW.
Deb
[Quoted text hidden]

Bloomfield Community Schools

BUILDING
EXCELLENCE
ENCOURAGING
SUCCESS

Honesty - Community - Relationships



School Finance Workshop Highlights

Tue 24 Mar 2026 • 3h 6min

Purchasing controls and policy alignment

- Emphasis on maintaining a clear paper trail for all purchases (itemized receipts, purchasing card receipts, and documentation tying purchases to the correct program/department).
- Staff must get approval from an authorized administrator before making purchases; too many examples statewide of staff buying first (often online) and submitting after.
- Clarification that districts are not always required to pay for unauthorized purchases; some situations should result in the individual being responsible.
- Reminder to ensure local policy matches desired practice; keep board policy general and put detailed procedures in a staff handbook so minor procedural tweaks don't put the district "out of policy."

Financial reporting: make it understandable and transparent

- Recommended monthly board reports that "make sense" to board members and therefore the public; overly complex reports can be perceived as non-transparent.
- Useful report elements discussed: year-to-date expenses/receipts by fund, cash balances, and 2–3 year comparisons to spot trends and explain spikes (e.g., HVAC project, added teachers).

- Suggestion to simplify expense reports by removing unnecessary object-code detail from the standard board packet; provide detailed object-code lists only when requested.
- Example of a simple public-facing quarterly snapshot: beginning balance, revenues in, expenses out, inter-fund transfers, and ending balance.
- Payroll visibility is powerful for messaging: showing that ~75–85% of expenses are payroll helps the public understand why cutting costs often means cutting staff.
- One district shared a successful 3-year comparison form posted publicly (via online agenda archive) and used to explain district financial health during negotiations.

Budget calendar, key deadlines, and compliance pitfalls

- Budgeting framed as a year-long process; several districts discuss budget monthly and provide a budget calendar to the board annually.
- Key dates highlighted:
- March 15 contract timeline: cannot force staff to sign before this date; confusion sometimes occurs with April 15 RIF deadline.
- Negotiation deadlines (including Feb 8 end date leading to arbitration) help align staffing cost certainty before April 15 reductions.
- Importance of hitting October deadlines for poverty/LEP intent/plan submission; missing it can cost significant equalization aid (example: ~\$500k loss due to missed submission).
- MOE (Maintenance of Effort) for special education: failing MOE can result in loss of IDEA funding; districts should use the state MOE tracking tool

and file for every exemption possible.

- Payroll accuracy risks: over/underpayments can require repayment/docking and can trigger complex tax corrections; recommended triple-checking contracts before first payroll.
- Payroll tax payments and tax receipt tracking are critical; examples shared where failures caused penalties and even job losses, and where counties delayed distributing tax receipts causing cash-flow issues.

Tax/authority strategy and legislative constraints

- Strong caution against lowering the levy “too much” just for optics; boards often regret it later when conditions change.
- Major theme: maximize spending/tax authority where allowed—this is authority, not a commitment to spend or tax more.
- Explanation that budgeting often sets a ceiling (authority) and actual spending may be significantly below it.
- Pink Postcard / joint public hearing (LB 644 / LB 727): required when exceeding allowable growth; advice to “make it worthwhile” if you have to go.
- Discussion of proposed 2% hard cap (LB 1219): concern that it would remove flexibility to respond if state aid is reduced.
- Revenue cap framework (LB 243): 3% base cap with ability (board vote) to reach 4–7%; encouragement to vote for unused authority since it can carry forward.
- Valuation nuances:
- Clarified levy vs. tax asking vs. valuation; levy may drop while taxes still rise due to valuation growth.

- “One cent” levy impact can be large for a district (example given: \$50k per cent on \$500M valuation).
- Bond valuation differs under LB2 (ag land taxed at 50% for voter-approved bonds vs ~73% otherwise); don’t assume the assessor will handle it correctly—verify valuations.
- Property tax credit discussion:
 - Now a major share of receipts (roughly 30–35% in examples), but taxpayers may not “see” it (especially with escrowed mortgages).
 - Idea raised to communicate an “effective tax rate” that reflects the credit.
 - Timing of property tax credit distributions varies by county; no clear statutory timing was identified.
- State funding mix: shift from local to more state share when the state has money; expectation it may shift back locally when state revenues tighten.

Where money comes from/where it goes: trends and state aid formula overview

- Statewide spending trends noted, including SPED rising as a share of total expenses (example cited: ~12.7% to ~14% since 2018–19).
- SPED cost growth drivers discussed: more high-needs students and higher reimbursement encouraging districts to add needed staff; concern legislature may reduce reimbursement due to cost increases.
- Overview of funding sources beyond property tax: allocated income tax (now ~2.23% of income tax back to districts, down from an originally proposed 20%), motor vehicle taxes (possible legislative shifts to counties tied to inheritance tax repeal), railroad (car line) taxes, and public power sales tax.

- TOSA/TOSS components reviewed at a high level: equalization aid, net option funding, allocated income tax, and foundation aid.
- Foundation aid (LB 583): \$1,500 per student; for equalized districts, much of it offsets equalization aid (so net gain may be limited). A \$600 portion is not counted as a resource for equalized districts (effective benefit discussed).
- State aid formula walkthrough: needs minus resources.
- Needs side includes formula students (including preschool at 60% weighting), basic funding (computed differently under/over 900 students), plus allowances (poverty, LEP, SPED, transportation, etc.).
- Resources side includes yield from local effort rate (set at \$1.00 in the formula regardless of actual levy), plus net option, allocated income tax, other receipts, and foundation aid counted at \$900 (with \$600 excluded from resources in the equalized adjustment).
- Illustrations of volatility and why reserves matter:
- Grand Island example of a state poverty calculation error causing ~\$3M overpayment then payback plus reduced current-year amount (described as a ~\$6M swing, further compounded by enrollment decline).
- Examples of districts seeing major aid swings year-to-year; message was to track multi-year patterns and be ready to explain decisions (including why a district didn't lower taxes after a state aid increase).

Suggested Action Items

- Review and reinforce local purchasing-card/employee purchase procedures (approval required, itemized receipts, and documentation tying purchases to programs/departments).

- Evaluate board financial reports to ensure they're simple, transparent, and include multi-year comparisons and cash balances; remove unnecessary object-code detail from standard packets.
- Create/update an annual budget calendar with key deadlines and present it for board approval and public posting.
- Ensure October submissions for poverty/LEP participation and plans are completed on time; submit something by the due date even if it will be revised during the audit window.
- Use the Special Education MOE Tracking Tool and file all applicable MOE exemptions to avoid IDEA funding losses.
- Implement a pre-first-payroll contract/payroll verification process to prevent over/underpayments and related tax complications.
- Track payroll tax deposits and county tax receipt distributions regularly to avoid penalties and cash-flow surprises.
- Verify bond-related valuations under LB2 (including ag land valuation treatment) rather than relying solely on the assessor.
- Build a communications approach for patrons explaining levy vs. valuation vs. tax asking and the impact/timing of the property tax credit (including considering an "effective tax rate" explanation).
- Build/maintain relationships with state senators outside of session; invite them to visit facilities and share how legislative changes affect the district.
- When required to hold a Pink Postcard/joint public hearing, plan ahead and make the request "worthwhile" rather than exceeding the threshold by a trivial amount.



Deb Wragge <dwragge@blfdbees.org>

Agenda Item for April 6th

Justin Jindra <jjindra@blfdbees.org>
To: Deb Wragge <dwragge@blfdbees.org>

Sun, Apr 5, 2026 at 7:13 PM

Budget workshop thoughts

-The way we go over monthly financials is much improved from when I got on the board and our method is almost textbook to what they recommend

- we really need to hammer down on some 3-10 year planning in the next 8 months

-under current legislation we should NEVER lower our levy again

-need to come up with some sort of comparison for us to compare ourselves to neighboring districts to show we are spending our money wisely. (Compare to wausa track, or plainviews gigantic bond they are trying to pass)

-a positive opt in rate student wise is a very good deal(worth around 10,000 extra per student in state aid)

-where are we at on our roof and HVAC systems on needing replaced? What is the plan there?

[Quoted text hidden]



Deb Wragge <dwrage@blfdbees.org>

Reminder: Legislative Workshop with Senator DeKay 40, for board members and administrators of LD - 04.09.26

1 message

Lindsey Headrick <lheadrick@nasbonline.org>
 To: Lindsey Headrick <lheadrick@nasbonline.org>
 Cc: Matt Belka <mbelka@nasbonline.org>

Mon, Apr 6, 2026 at 10:06 AM

Good morning,

This is a reminder for the virtual Teams workshop with Senator DeKay, scheduled for Thursday, April 9 at 8:15 am CT, specifically set up for networking and engagement with the Senator and school leaders within LD 40. Calls will be held every other Thursday through the beginning of April during the Legislative Session.

These virtual calls will be done using Microsoft Teams; it works similarly to Zoom. You can use the app, browser, or call in; however, the functionality works best when using the app.

See the full 2026 schedule below:

- January
15
- January
29
- ~~February~~
~~12~~
- February
26
- March
12
- March
26
- April
9 at
8:15
am
CT

Below is a copy of the Teams call information to add to your calendars - we will use the same link for every meeting:

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 221 671 092 324 8

Passcode: FW76Kz2Q

Dial in by phone

[+1 469-706-0532,,12146350#](#) United States, Irving

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 121 463 50#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Lindsey Headrick
 Administrative Specialist

Secondary Board of Education Report
04/06/26

- 1) Our students have competed and represented Bloomfield well in the past few weeks. We had many placers at State FFA, the Lewis and Clark Art Show, State FCCLA, and NECC Scholastic Contest.
- 2) Testing Reminders
 - a) As a reminder our Juniors will be taking the ACT on 04/07
 - b) Sophomores will take the ASVAB on 04/09
 - c) Spring Testing will be held on 04/14 and 04/22
- 3) Distracted Driving Simulation Reminder
 - a) This is our partnership with local EMS and LifeNet to show the procedures and actions needed to be taken when responding to a distracted driving vehicle accident. This simulation is open to the public and will take place on 04/07 with an approximate start time of 12:45pm.
- 4) Course Requests and Schedules
 - a) Mrs. Guenther and I are continuing to meet with students to obtain their course requests for next year. Once all requests are received then we will send information to students' parents to have them sign off on the courses that their student requested.
- 5) Graduation
 - a) We have 17 seniors that will be brought forward for recommendation to graduate. They have met all State of Nebraska and Bloomfield requirements for graduation.

Special Education Board Report
04/06/26

1) Focused Monitoring Meeting Update

- a) As mentioned in the last Board Meeting we had our Focused Monitoring meeting with NDE. It went well and we do a lot of great things for our students. They gave us feedback on different ways to document conversations that are had during MDT and IEP meetings. We will receive additional information on anything that needs to be addressed on 05/01.

2) Graduation

- a) We have one student that will be completing their 18-21 program with us at the end of June.

Technology Report

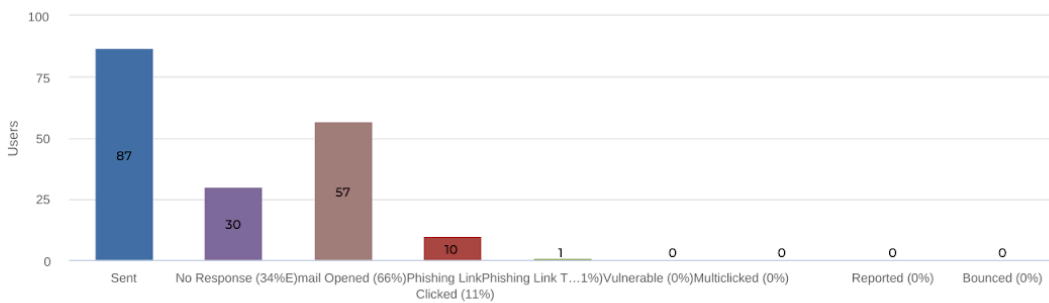
Date: April 6th, 2026

- Plan to visit Pender to view their video scoreboards that are a more budget friendly option as opposed to going through a company like Daktronics. Pender will demonstrate the capabilities for both their indoor and outdoor units.
- NWEA testing will fully begin soon. We managed to run a few trial tests for some students with both the tests and so far the testing system seems much better on the chromebooks
- Everything that has been given to me has been updated on the website so if you see something say something and we can look at it but Tabitha and I went through it a few times before external visit and as far as I have heard the external visit team did not point out any red flags
- Demo of poster made with the poster printer will be available at board meeting, we are very excited for the possibilities of this!

Threatsim Campaign Report:

Campaign Name	Bloomfield Spring 2026 87 01/12/2026 10:00:00 AM EST UTC/GMT-0500 02/25/2026 04:00:13 PM EST
Total Emails Sent	UTC/GMT-0500 Bloomfield Staff (87) Message from HR: Signature Required on Updated Policy, Protect
Start Date/Time	Your Account %EMAIL%, Notifications: %EMAIL%, You were mentioned in a document: "Strategic Plan
End Date/Time	Draft"
Groups	Drive By
Message Subject	
Campaign Type	

Campaign Details



Campaign Activity Metrics

