

Board of Education Special Meeting
Red Willow School District #73-0017
McCook Public Schools
12:00 PM Tuesday, April 21, 2026
Junior High Conference Room
700 W 7th St
McCook, NE 69001

1. Call to Order

1.1. Roll Call

Regular Board

Scott Barger

Attendance Taken at at 12:00 AM

Amanda Buhr

Agenda Item: Call to Order

Brad Hays

Jesse Juenemann

Mike Langan

Charlie McPherson

1.2. Recognition of Open Meeting Law

1.3. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Participation

2.1. Board accepts public comments

Tom Bredvick thanked Grant Norgaard for all his years. He was honored to work and learn from him.

3. New Business

3.1. Accept the resignation of Grant Norgaard, McCook Public Schools Superintendent

I move to accept the resignation of Grant Norgaard, McCook Public Schools Superintendent. Passed with a motion by Mike Langan and a second by Jesse Juenemann.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike

Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

3.2. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve a potential contract offer for the position of Interim Superintendent.

I move to approve a 2 year contract for Interim Superintendent Jeff Gross. Salary to be set at \$190,000. annually for the duration of the contract. Passed with a motion by Brad Hays and a second by Mike Langan.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike

Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Mr. Gross will accept the position if approved.

4. Closed Session

For the protection of the public interest and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual, and the individual has not requested a public meeting, to discuss the terms and conditions of a potential Interim Superintendent contract.

I move to go into closed session. Passed with a motion by Charlie McPherson and a second by Scott Barger.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike

Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

I move to exit closed session. Passed with a motion by Scott Barger and a second by Charlie McPherson.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike

Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

The board will enter into executive session prior to 3.2 on the agenda at 12:18 pm.

The board exited closed session at 1:44 pm.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm.

McCook Public Schools

Dear McCook Board of Education,

Please consider this letter as my formal resignation from the position of Superintendent of Schools, effective upon completion of my contractual obligations for the 2025–2026 school year.

I want to begin by thanking the community of McCook for its unwavering support of our schools and, most importantly, our children. McCook has become my home and a place I will always cherish. I am deeply grateful for the way this community has supported both me and my family. My children had the opportunity to grow up here and graduate from McCook High School, and that experience binds them to this community in a meaningful and lasting way. I am sincerely proud of McCook Public Schools and grateful that my family was blessed to be a part of them.

To the faculty and staff of McCook Public Schools, thank you. Each of you does this work because of an internal commitment to make our community and our world better for children. Your efforts are deeply appreciated, and your impact is measurable. I wish you all the very best and encourage you to never lose sight of why you chose this profession. You are the difference makers.


To the Board of Education, thank you for your steadfast focus on what is best for students and for the McCook community. Your commitment to ensuring that students have access to an education that empowers them to fulfill their dreams is evident in your work. I appreciate your support, your time, and your courage in making decisions that serve the greater good.

To the administrative team, thank you for the care and commitment you demonstrate each day. You have chosen to lead in a profession that is often misunderstood by those who have never experienced it. The expectations, the responsibility, and the personal sacrifice required to serve students, staff, and community are significant. Those who have lived this work understand the weight it carries. It demands resilience, judgment, and a level of commitment that few fully appreciate. I know each of you, and I know the depth of your dedication to ensuring that students are truly equipped to succeed in life. You are deserving of great respect, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked alongside you.

I have accepted the position of Assistant Commissioner with the Nebraska Department of Education, where I will have the opportunity to continue serving students, educators, and communities across our state. While this decision was not easy, I believe it is the right next step in my professional journey and allows me to contribute to education at a broader level.

Serving as Superintendent of McCook Public Schools for the past 17 years has been an honor. I will always carry with me a deep sense of pride in what we have accomplished together and a lasting appreciation for this community. Go Bison!

Sincerely,



Grant Norgaard

Superintendent, McCook Public Schools

2009–2026