

Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
November 17, 2025

President Jason Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 6:46 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2025 at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Brooke Brooks, John O'Dea, Jennifer McConville, Derek Meyers, Jason Neseth, Duane Teter, Principals Matt Springer and Tara Fries, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: None.

Visitors: Cris Charley, Hillery Kennedy, Sasha Burton, Mindy Haag, and Sagen Carmen-Downer.

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by Teter, seconded by McConville, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Meyers, Brooks, McConville, Neseth, Teter, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Notices of the meeting were posted at the Adams Bank and Trust in Indianola, the Stockmens Bank in Bartley, Post Offices in Bartley and Indianola, Southwest Elementary School in Indianola, Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley, and published in the Valley Voice newspaper and on the school website. Notice of the meeting was given in advance to all members prior to the meeting date.

During the Public Comment and Recognition of Visitors, Hillery Kennedy commented on the actions of the visiting Maywood-Hayes Center Wolves collecting trash at a sports competition at our high school. She suggested a catchy phrase and music to inspire students and adults to collect and dispose of trash appropriately for a 30- or 60-second timeframe.

Moved by Brooks, seconded by Meyers, to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2025 board meeting minutes with corrections. Ayes: Meyers, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the claims as presented. Ayes: McConville, Meyers, O'Dea, Neseth, Teter, and Brooks. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by Teter, seconded by McConville, to approve the 2024-2025 audit from Forward CPA. Ayes: O'Dea, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, Meyers and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the quote from Dell Technologies for \$4,707.33 to purchase a new server to be located at the junior-senior high building. Ayes: O'Dea, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, Meyers and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The board discussed the quotes from Coach Masters for purchasing a used coach bus. Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Meyers, to table any action on the quote. The majority of board members would like to review additional quotes from other companies. Ayes: O'Dea, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, Meyers and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by O'Dea, that the school board go into closed session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss teacher negotiations for the protection of the public interest following the end of the administrators' reports. Ayes: O'Dea, Brooks, Neseth, Teter, Meyers and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Superintendent evaluation forms were distributed to the board members for completion and return to President Neseth.

Principal Springer reported on the NSAA Division 1 Sportsmanship Award received by the school following the State Volleyball Tournament, purchase of equipment and supplies for the Carl Perkins and CTE Grant awards, and the recent hiring of two special education para educators.

Principal Fries reported on the Early Childhood Advisory Committee meeting that reviewed the current preschool policy. No policy changes were made. Family engagement nights are being planned for January, February, and March of 2026. Parent-Teacher Conferences were attended with a high percentage of parents. The Veterans Day Program was also well attended with a good performance by the students.

President Neseth repeated the motion that the school board go into closed session to discuss teacher negotiations for the protection of the public interest at 8:15 p.m. Closed session ended at 8:30 p.m.

No further motions were made.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Ayes: O'Dea, McConville, Meyers, Neseth, Teter, and Brooks. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Agenda for meetings will be kept continually current and available for public inspection in the office of the Superintendent.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.