The Sterling Jet Brief

October 2026

A summary of the Sterling School Board Meeting

The Sterling Jet Brief is designed to provide our community with a clear and concise summary of the key discussions and decisions made at each Sterling School Board meeting. Our goal is to keep you informed about the progress of our schools and to foster an open dialogue between the board and the public.

Next Meeting

Date: November 16, 2026
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Sterling Public Schools Library

The Public is welcome to attend

Our Guiding Principles

Our Mission

Sterling Public Schools will educate students to excel, prepare to compete, inspire to serve, and challenge to learn.

Our Vision

All Sterling Public Schools Students will achieve their full potential.

Board Goals

Goal I: Organizational and Cultural Leadership

Objective: To foster a culture of academic excellence, opportunity, and innovation to support high-quality instruction, and staff development to ensure the success of all students.

Strategy 1. Lead initiatives to enhance student success, staff development, and operational efficiency to support the long-term success of the district.

Sterling Board of Education

Mark Horstman, President

Julie Saathoff, Vice President

Mackenzie Saathoff, Secretary

Russ Trauernicht, Treasurer

Rick Vollman, Board Member

Lauren Weyers, Board Member

In This Issue

- A month in review at Sterling
- Admin & Committee Reports
- Action Items
- Discussion Items
- Next Meeting

A month in review at Sterling



Football Playoffs: The Jets football team qualified for the state football playoffs, marking an exciting accomplishment for the players, coaches, and Sterling community. Congratulations to the team on their hard work and dedication throughout the season and for representing Sterling Public Schools with pride.

Admin & Committee Reports

Superintendent's Report: The superintendent's report included an announcement that the district was awarded $66,133.36 through the Rural Health Transformation Program Kitchen Grant for new kitchen equipment. An update was also provided on the Pioneer Conference Board of Control meeting held on October 14, 2026, in Auburn, which included discussion of the conference volleyball tournament and future host sites for conference events. Superintendent evaluation forms will be shared with board members by email.

Principal's Report: The principal's report shared fall standardized testing data to highlight that districtwide growth fell in the average range in reading and math, with math trending near the high average range from elementary through high school.

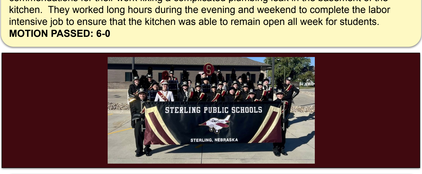
AD/Transportation Report: The Transportation/AD report included an update on the next round of vehicle inspections, with no major issues reported so far and a final report expected at the November meeting. Decals have also been added to all school vehicles to meet compliance requirements. The Pioneer Conference scheduling committee will meet in November to review future event host assignments, with any changes affecting Sterling shared at the next board meeting. Following the fall sports seasons, a meeting with Lewiston will address logistics for the upcoming girls basketball season. Advertisements seeking winter snow removal bids have been placed in The Voice and the Auburn/Tecumseh newspaper, with any responses to be presented at the next board meeting.



Building & Grounds: The Building and Grounds Committee provided an update on the bond project as designs are entering the 95% completion phase. The committee shared renderings of the latest renderings captured during a meeting with CMBA Architects in October.

Action Items

Commendations: Sterling Maintenance employees JW and Robert received commendations for their work fixing a complicated plumbing leak in the basement of the kitchen. They worked long hours during the evening and weekend to complete the labor intensive job to ensure that the kitchen was able to remain open all week for students.
MOTION PASSED: 6-0



Commendations: The Sterling band and Mr. Gossard received commendations for the band's 2nd place finish at the NSBA State Marching Band Contest. This was the first year of the contest and the results demonstrate the time and effort that was dedicated to practice, preparation, and the performance by Mr. Gossard and the Sterling marching band.
MOTION PASSED: 6-0

Discussion Items

Policy Review: The Board reviewed policies 5020, 5022, 5023, 5024, 5025, 3035, and 3039 as part of the district's ongoing policy review process. The focus of these policies includes: Student contact, Health, Chain of Command, and Threat Assessment.

275 Lincoln St: The board revisited the purchase proposal of 275 Lincoln St. The discussion revolved around getting a fair property value assessment before revisiting the purchase of the property.

Superintendent Evaluations: The board will continue to use the NCSA evaluation model for superintendent evaluations this year. Evaluations will be distributed on October and Completed prior the the regular December board meeting.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: The next scheduled board meeting will be a special meeting on November 16, 2026 at 7:00pm in the Sterling High School Library.