

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: October 20, 2025
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.

Sterling Board of Education

Mark Horstman, President

Julie Saathoff, Vice President

Mackenzie Saathoff, Secretary

Russ Traurnicht, Treasurer

Rick Vollman, Board Member

Lauren Weyers, Board Member

Board Goals

Facilities Maintenance and Management Leadership

- Ensure the viability of the district by creating a Capital Improvement Plan to update and maintain facilities
- Address space in elementary and kitchen concerns.
- Complete a study of district facilities and grounds.
- Engage maintenance department staff in the study of facilities and grounds.
- Develop a short and long-term facilities plan [Master Plan] to address preventative maintenance and upkeep.

In This Issue

- Discussion & Informational Items
- Admin & Committee Reports
- Action Items
- Next Meeting

Discussion & Informational Items



Character Strong: This year, we implemented a new SEBL (Social-Emotional Behavioral Learning) curriculum for grades K-12. Topics covered so far are kindness, bullying, and respect. The program is interactive and allows students to be recognized for practicing the Jet Way (Safe, Responsible, and Respectful). We're excited about where this program will take our students!

SOAR: In the high school, we implemented a new SOAR period. This period rotates through the periods and allows our students to focus on improving their math and reading skills. Using individualized digital diagnostics, all students are able to hone in on expanding skills that align with the next steps in their learning.

Booster Bash: The 2025 Booster Bash took place on August 22nd. The event showcased the fall sports teams and provided several activities for younger students and community. The event was highlighted by fall sports scrimmages, food trucks, a photo booth, a performance from the junior jet cheer team, and an autograph session with the players.

Admin & Committee Reports

Superintendent's Report: Discussion was continued on the development of the "Jet Brief" to focus on sharing the important highlights of the Sterling Public School's Board of Education Meetings. The first edition of the Jet Brief for the September meeting will be prepared and linked to the school website. Information was also shared about the Nebraska Beef in Schools guidelines. Participation in this is going to continue to be explored by the health and wellness committee in the next couple of weeks.

Principal's Report: Information was shared regarding the pros and cons of both a 10 point grading system, as well as, a Cum Laude system for graduation honors. A more comprehensive presentation will be prepared and shared as an item for discussion at a future board meeting. Standardized testing has been completed in the elementary and high schools. The results will be organized and presented to the board at the October regular meeting.

AD/Transportation Report: The required 80 day inspections of all vehicles have been completed and all vehicles are in compliance with current regulations. The new short bus that was purchased in June has a tentative scheduled arrival date of December 4, 2025. The mudecas athletic directors met on August 21. Items of discussion were the \$350 association dues and the attempt to add hudl cameras to the Beatrice middle school gym and auditorium to enable game film and streaming for all tournament contests.

Building and Grounds Committee: The building and grounds committee discussed their meeting with architects from CMBA in August. Objectives were to finalize plans for the potential construction of a new elementary school and renovations to the current commons and elementary space. The discussion highlighted exterior options for the commons area portion of the project.

Action Items

2025-2026 Budget: The school board considered the approval of the 2024-2025 school budget as presented.

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY

Sterling Public Schools (490033) in Johnson County, Nebraska

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-513, that the governing body will meet on the 3rd day of September, 2025 at 6:30 o'clock, PM, at Sterling Public Schools Library for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the following proposed budget and to consider amendments relative thereto. The budget detail is available at the office of the Clerk/Secretary during regular business hours. For more information on statewide receipts and expenditures, and to compare cost per pupil and performance to other school districts, go to: <https://nep.education.ne.gov>

FUNDS	Actual Disbursements & Transfers	Actual/Estimated Disbursements & Transfers	Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers	Necessary Cash Reserve (4)	Total Available Resources Before Property Taxes (5)	Total Personal and Real Property Tax Requirement (7)
	2023-2024 (1)	2024-2025 (2)	2025-2026 (3)			
General	\$ 3,829,367.00	\$ 4,024,421.00	\$ 5,983,261.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 3,326,958.00	\$ 3,188,185.00
Depreciation	\$ 114,165.00	\$ 233,612.00	\$ 241,094.00		\$ 241,094.00	
Employee Benefit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Activities	\$ 136,659.00	\$ 147,723.00	\$ 123,428.00		\$ 123,428.00	
School Nutrition	\$ 149,655.00	\$ 186,202.00	\$ 276,650.00		\$ 276,650.00	
Bond	\$ 169,575.00	\$ 170,755.00	\$ 207,066.00		\$ 205,066.00	\$ 2,020.00
Special Building	\$ 28,807.00	\$ -	\$ 833,666.00		\$ 833,666.00	\$ -
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking	\$ 73,183.00	\$ 72,000.00	\$ 146,252.00		\$ 100,252.00	\$ 46,465.00
Cooperative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Student Fee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,555.00		\$ 23,555.00	
TOTALS	\$ 4,501,411.00	\$ 4,834,713.00	\$ 7,834,972.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 5,130,669.00	\$ 3,236,670.00
Breakdown of Property Tax				Bond Purposes	Non-Bond Purposes	Total
				\$ 2,020.00	\$ 3,234,650.00	\$ 3,236,670.00

2025-2026 Tax Request: The school board considered the approval of the 2024-2025 tax asking as presented.

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

Notice of Special Hearing To Set Final Tax Request

Sterling Public Schools (490033) in Johnson County, Nebraska

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Section 77-1632, that the governing body will meet on the 3rd day of, September 2025 at 6:45 o'clock PM, at Sterling Public Schools Library for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to settling the final tax request.

Property Valuations	2024-2025	2025-2026	Change
	394,487,873	472,308,423	20%

Fund	2024-2025 Budget Information				2025-2026 Budget Information				Change in Tax Rate	Change in Operating Budget
	2024-2025	2024-2025	2024	Property Tax Rate	2025-2026	2025-2026	Proposed			
General Fund	5,855,074.00	3,153,649.00	0.799429	0.667710	5,983,261.00	3,188,185.00	0.675022		-16%	2%
Bond Fund(s) K - 12	340,010.00	186,112.00	0.047178	0.039405	207,066.00	2,020.00	0.000428		-99%	-39%
Special Building Fund	816,145.00	106,061.00	0.026886	0.022456	833,666.00	-	0.000000		-100%	2%
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund K - 12	153,299.00	46,997.00	0.011913	0.009950	146,252.00	46,465.00	0.006838		-17%	-5%
Total	7,164,528.00	3,492,819.00	0.885406	0.739521	7,170,245.00	3,236,670.00	0.685288		-23%	0%

Girls Basketball Coop with Lewiston: The district was approached by Lewiston about a potential co-op for girls basketball. A co-op between the schools would allow Lewiston girls the opportunity to play basketball and will provide Sterling the opportunity to increase JV quarters and provide extra development opportunities for young players. The co-op between the teams will come with no additional cost to the district.

MOTION PASSED 6-0

Special Bond Resolution: The board voted on a resolution calling for a Special Bond Election. The project, not to exceed \$17,500,000 would go on the ballot for the November election held on Tuesday, November 4. The bond would provide funds for constructing the addition of new elementary classrooms and many other improvements to the existing facilities.

MOTION PASSED 6-0

