

The Sterling Jet Brief

December 2025

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: January 19, 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.

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

Board Goals

Goal IV: Budget Planning and Management

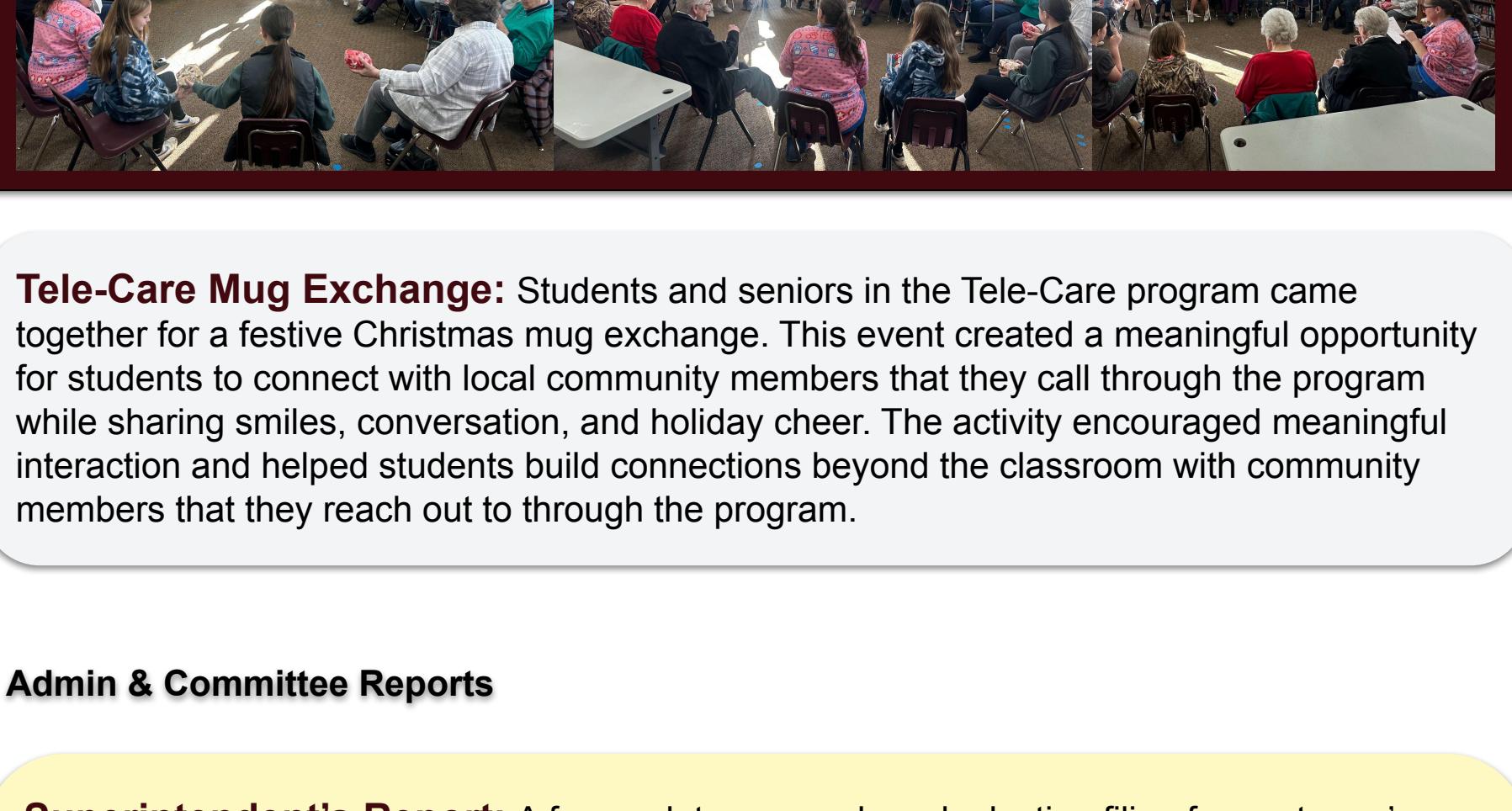
Objective: Develop and implement a transparent, student-centered budget planning and management process that aligns financial resources with district priorities, supports academic success, and ensures fiscal responsibility.

Strategy 1: Establish a collaborative budget that is data-driven and allows for input from principal, board, and stakeholders. Prioritize resource allocation to support identified student needs, instructional goals, while monitoring expenditures through consistent reporting and accountability to the board.

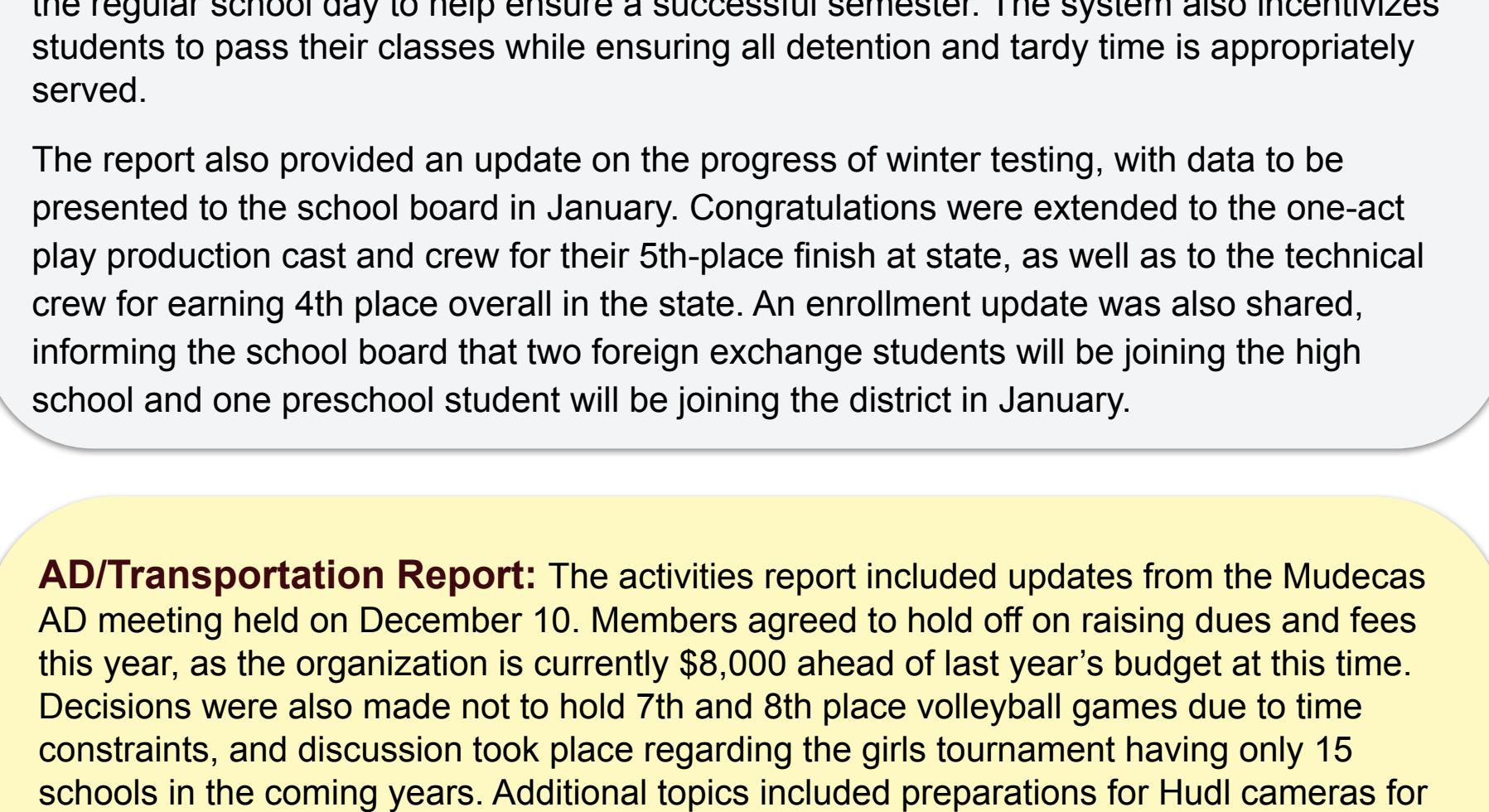
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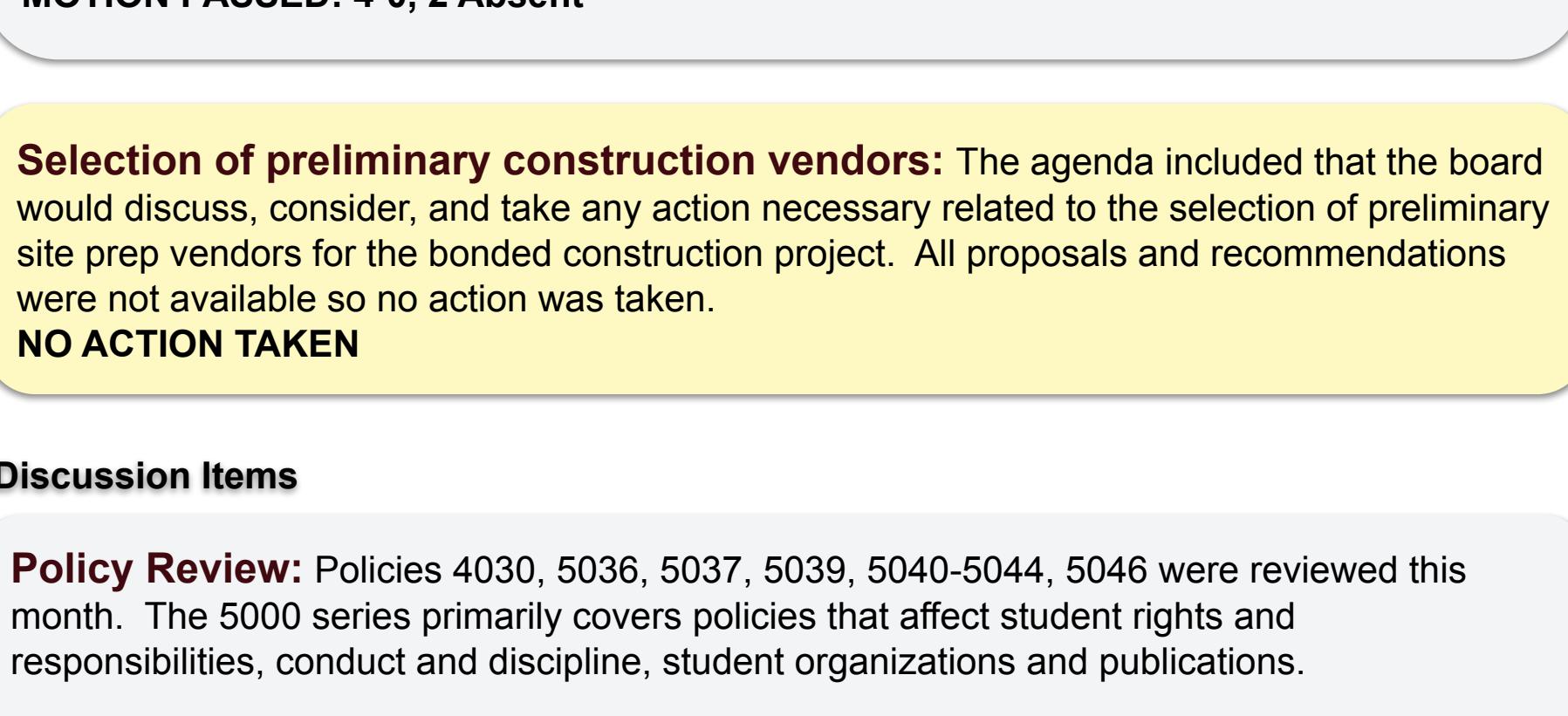
A month in review at Sterling



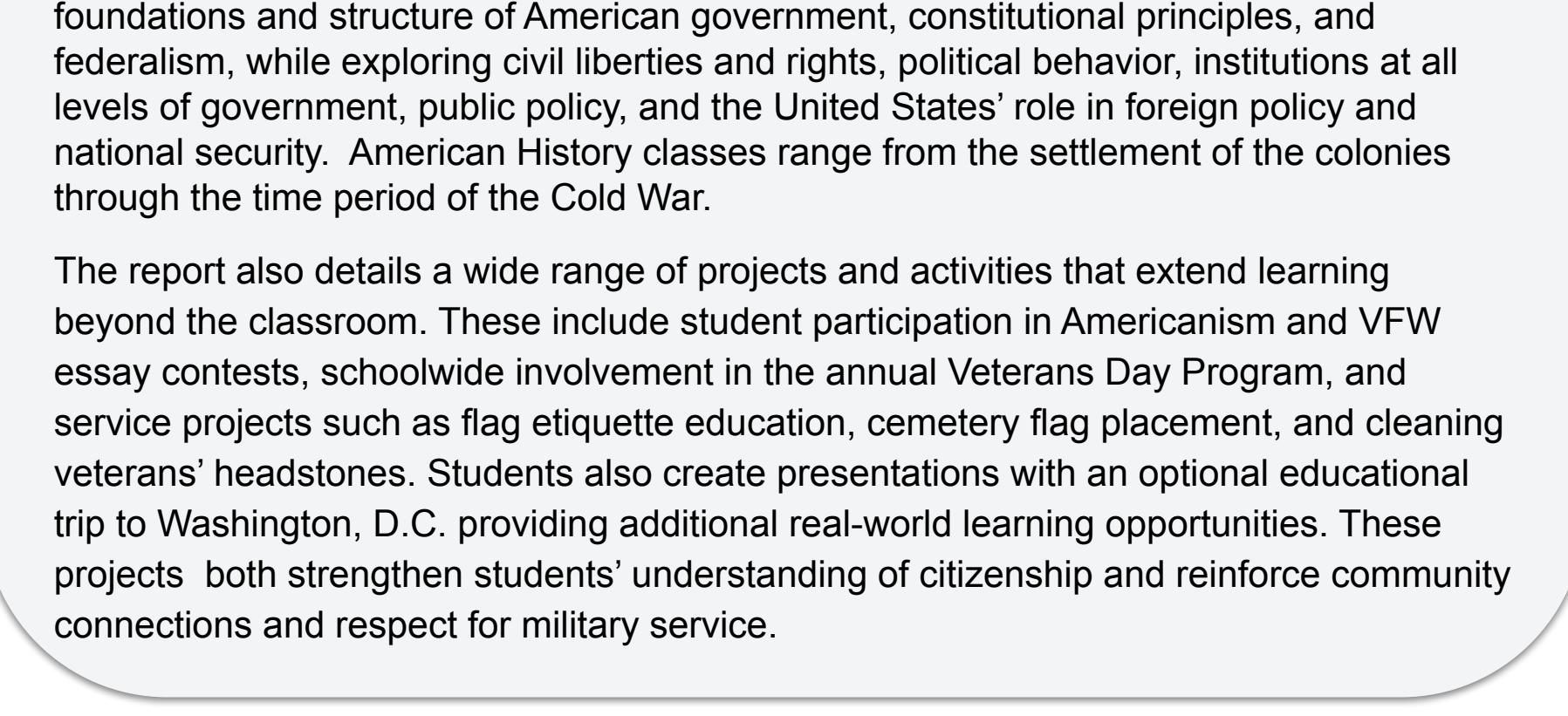
Pre-School Snow Recess: Preschool students and staff embraced the first snowfall of the season. Bundled up in boots and hats they used the snow to have a special sledding recess. This idea brought a little extra excitement to recess and created a long lasting memory for both classes.



Sterling One-Act: The Sterling one-act program had an exciting and successful season this year. Students shared their talents with the community through a dinner theater fundraiser, providing an enjoyable night of entertainment while supporting the program. The team also earned a district championship at Peru State earlier this month qualifying for the state competition. The Jets capped off their season with a 5th place finish at the NSAA class D2 Play Production Championships at the Johnny Carson Theater in Norfolk.



Holiday Concerts: The recent Elementary and High School Holiday concerts were a success showcasing our students' talents and creating an entertaining atmosphere for families and community members. Audiences enjoyed a variety of performances that displayed the hard work of Mr. Gossard and his students. Performance highlights for the evening featured Santa the Barbarian: Snowpocalypse, and Dominic the Christmas Donkey. These events were a great reminder of how school activities bring our community together and celebrate student achievement.



Tele-Care Mug Exchange: Students and seniors in the Tele-Care program came together for a festive Christmas mug exchange. This event created a meaningful opportunity for students to connect with local community members that they call through the program while sharing smiles, conversation, and holiday cheer. The activity encouraged meaningful interaction and helped students build connections beyond the classroom with community members that they reach out to through the program.

Admin & Committee Reports

Superintendent's Report: A few updates were shared, election filing for next year's election is due to the county commissioner by January 5, 2026. Recent major maintenance projects included replacing an air handling unit motor and repairing a heating unit fan and capacitor. Both projects were able to be completed in house for the cost of parts. Upcoming professional development opportunities include the NASB Legislative Conference, the NRCSA Legislative Forum, and the NRCSA Spring Conference, with budget and finance workshop dates to be announced. Additionally, due to recent changes in Nebraska's paid sick time guidance, the district will be reviewing employment policies for classified staff in the coming months to ensure continued legal compliance.

Principal's Report: The principal's report began by outlining the rationale for implementing an adjusted schedule during finals week. As reported, this system allows students who need additional class time to receive one-on-one support from staff during the regular school day to help ensure a successful semester. The system also incentivizes students to pass their classes while ensuring all detention and tardy time is appropriately served.

The report also provided an update on the progress of winter testing, with data to be presented to the school board in January. Congratulations were extended to the one-act play production cast and crew for their 5th place finish at state, as well as to the technical crew for earning 4th place overall in the state. An enrollment update was also shared, informing the school board that two foreign exchange students will be joining the high school and one preschool student will be joining the district in January.

District Annual Report: The annual district report was presented. The report includes Staff Information, Financial Information, Student Achievement, School Data, Demographic Information, and School Improvement Process goal information. A full copy of the report can be found below.

[Annual Report 2025-2026](#)

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: The next scheduled board meeting will be the regular January meeting on January 19, 2026 at 7:00pm in the Sterling High School Library.

