

The Sterling Jet Brief

July 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: August 17, 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 I. 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

McKenzie Saathoff, Secretary

Russ Trauernicht, Treasurer

Rick Vollman, Board Member

Lauren Weyers, Board Member

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Admin & Committee Reports

Superintendent's Report: The superintendent's report included an update that the district's required Triennial Wellness Policy Assessment was completed and submitted in June. The assessment results are available on the school website for anyone interested in reviewing them. [Triennial Health Assessment Information](#)

The report also noted that administrators will attend the Nebraska Department of Education's New Superintendent Workshop and the annual Administrators' Days conference later this month as part of ongoing professional development and preparation for the upcoming school year.

In addition, all policy revisions approved by the Board of Education at the June meeting have been finalized and updated in the district's policy management system (SPARQ) as well as on Google Drive.

Principal's Report: The principal's report included an update on staffing and enrollment as the district prepares for the new school year. Jordan Amundson has joined the district as the new school psychologist, and Kari Gray has been hired as a Pre-K 3 paraprofessional. Enrollment continues to grow with three foreign exchange students, 19 preschool students, two new elementary students, and five new junior high/high school students expected this fall.

The report also highlighted updates being made to the student handbook, including revisions to graduation honors, honor roll recognition, and changes related to legislative policy updates and procedures.

AD/Transportation Report: The transportation and activities report included an update on preparations for the upcoming school year. The district has completed its second round of vehicle inspections, with maintenance and repairs underway to ensure the transportation fleet is ready for students. Bus routes will also be driven in the coming days to verify stops, with only a few minor route adjustments expected.

The report also included updates from the Booster Club. The district will use pocket schedules this year as it prepares to launch a new school app, which will become the primary way to share schedules and updates with families. Plans continue for new gym wall mats, pending Booster Club fundraising, and the annual Booster Bash is scheduled for August 21.

Looking ahead, coaches will attend the annual coaches clinic in July, the gym floor will be refinished August 3–7, and fall sports practices will begin on August 10.

Action Items

Review and Approve Student Handbook Changes: The Board approved updates to the 2026-2027 Student Handbook. The primary revisions include changes to the graduation honors system, updates to the honor roll criteria, and revisions to handbook references to reflect board policy changes approved in June in response to recent legislative updates.

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

Review and Approve Staff Handbook Changes: Review and approval of the 2026-2027 Staff Handbook has been postponed until next month's meeting. This will allow time for the completion of the district's updated grading policy, which has been developed collaboratively by teachers to promote greater consistency in grading practices across classrooms. Once finalized, the new grading policy will be incorporated into the Staff Handbook before board approval.

NO ACTION TAKEN

Review and Update Board Policy 5045 - Student Fees: The Board conducted its annual review of the district's Student Fees Policy. Following the review, no changes were made to student fees or to the policy for the 2026-2027 school year.

NO ACTION TAKEN

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: The next scheduled board meeting will be regular August meeting on August 17, 2026 at 7:00pm in the Sterling High School Library.

