

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 17, 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.

Board Goals

Communications and Community Leadership

- Establish relationships with staff, community, and parents with solid communication skills both in person and through school communications.
- Create a long-term plan to sustain and grow enrollment including an assessment of students opting out of the district and a potential marketing plan.
 - Address Website – Forward more information about options.
 - Build Annual Report/Marketing Brochure

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

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A month in review at Sterling

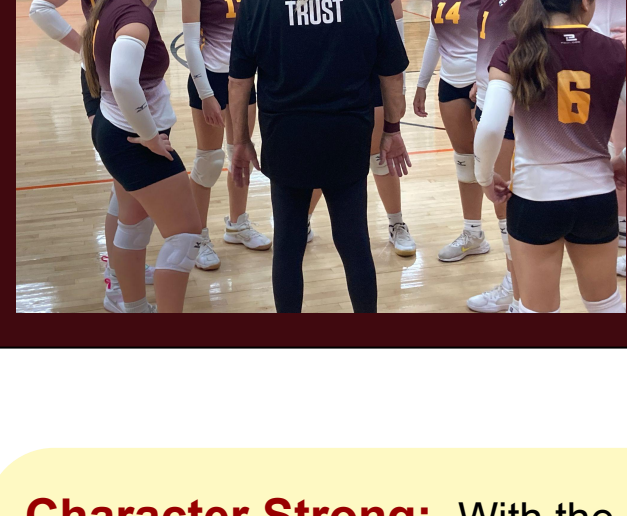
Honor Flight: Sterling alumni and veteran David Rengstorf was honored with an honor flight which provides veterans with free travel to experience memorials and monuments in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Bianchi's 3rd grade class created thank you letters and drawings that were presented to David in a care package as a part of his honor flight experience.



Community Pep-Rally: Sterling Students, Staff, Community, and Alumni gathered at the football field for a community pep rally. Despite not having the scheduled bonfire the night did not disappoint. The entertainment was highlighted by a meal, games, class awards, and skits. Thanks to everyone that came out to share in the homecoming celebrations.



Terrance Tally: Motivational speaker Terrence Tally brought energy, emotion, and inspiration to our joint assembly with Lewiston High School. His message—about perseverance, empathy, and supporting one another—resonated deeply with students from both schools, reminding everyone of the power of compassion and resilience.



Coach Kate: When the team faced unexpected changes mid-season, Coach Kate stepped up without hesitation, guiding our players with steady leadership and unwavering commitment. Her positive attitude, resilience, and dedication became the rock our program leaned on through a challenging year. We're deeply grateful for her passion, patience, and the heart she's brought to every practice and game.

Character Strong: With the prompt "What does respect mean to you?" on the screen, students engage in a Character Strong activity that encourages reflection and meaningful discussion. Through lessons like this, our Jets are learning to live the "Jet Way" by showing respect, empathy, and kindness every day.



Health: After a powerful mental health activity, Mrs. Hollman's sophomore health class gathers to debrief and reflect. Earlier, students wrote hurtful words or phrases they've heard on ceramic plates, then safely broke them as a symbolic act of letting go. The activity fostered healing, discussion, and connection in a safe, supportive environment.



Walking Club: Elementary students gathered in the gym under Walking Club to hear Mr. Lempka introduce this month's Character Strong theme—Kindness! Together, our Jets are learning that even the smallest acts of kindness can lift others and help our school soar higher.



Elementary Celebration: Smiles and laughter filled the gym as the elementary celebrated reaching a new earning tier toward their playground building goal! Students faced off against staff in an epic game of rock, paper, scissors.

Mr. Logston's Shop Class: When a sudden rainstorm hit, Mr. Logston went above and beyond—carrying a welding curtain to shield his students as he escorted them to the shop. His care and creativity turned a soggy walk into a lesson in dedication and heart.



Admin & Committee Reports

Superintendent's Report: The primary issues in the maintenance report were leaks in the gym and commons area, both issues are believed to be completely resolved. The NDE completed its rule 10 accreditation visit at Sterling on October 14. No deficiencies were reported and the district has received its compliance letter and submitted the Rule 10 Assurance Statement. The Pioneer Conference Board of Control met on October 15 in Auburn.

Principal's Report: There were two primary focuses in the principal's report. The first was a staffing update on the volleyball coaching position. Kate Agena was announced as the new head volleyball coach, following the midseason resignation of the previous head coach. The resignation was voluntary and not the result of disciplinary action. An update was also given regarding the school's compliance with NE Revised Statute 79-2607 and the requirements for Science of Reading training for early elementary teachers. Through approval of the CLSD grant, all Sterling Elementary teachers will be receiving extensive training through AIM Pathways. Four other brief updates were provided regarding upcoming discussions, including a Cum Laude system for graduation awards, the addition of HAL and Advanced SOAR in the high school, the school website application wait time, and a successful social-emotional learning assembly featuring guest speaker Terrence Talley.

AD/Transportation Report: The next round of 80-day inspections for school vehicles will begin on November 1. There has been interest expressed from a few community members about obtaining bus licenses, this would greatly help with the high demand for route and activity subs. The cooperative for Sterling and Lewiston in Girls basketball has been approved by the NSAA, the schools will be meeting to finalize logistics as the fall seasons wrap up.

Action Items

Commendation: The board voted unanimously to approve a commendation for Sterling Staff member Mr. J W Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy has been a member of the Sterling staff for about a year. During this time he has used his industry experience to provide quality repairs to heat pumps, roof leaks, and many other facility improvements. J W is always willing to come in outside of operating hours. The quality of his work has proven itself and his commitment to the school has saved the district a considerable amount of resources.
MOTION PASSED: 6-0

Discussion Items

Superintendent Evaluation: The initial evaluation for the superintendent's initial year of employment will take place at the December regular board meeting. The board will be using the NASB evaluation model for the initial round of evaluation.

Next Meeting

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

