

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 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.

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

Mackenzie Saathoff, Secretary

Russ Trauernicht, Treasurer

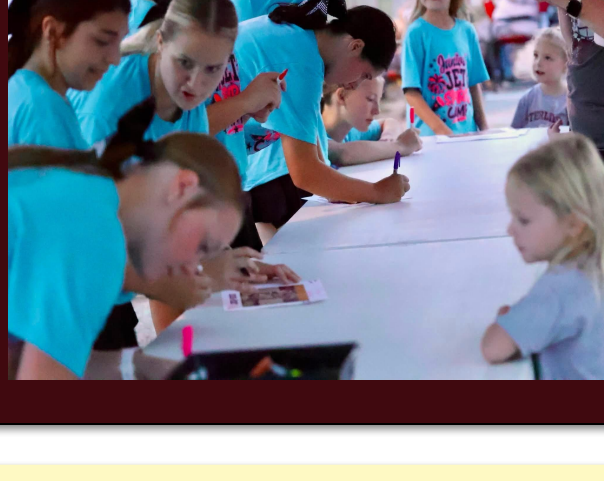
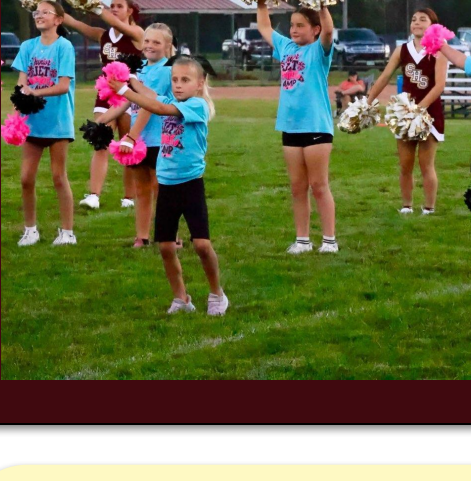
Rick Vollman, Board Member

Lauren Weyers, Board Member

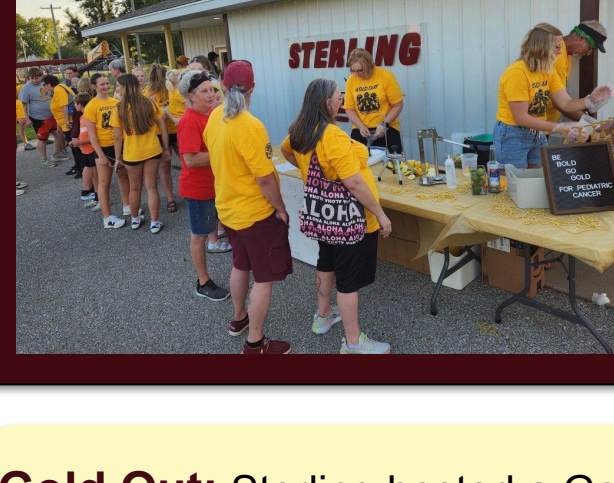
In This Issue

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

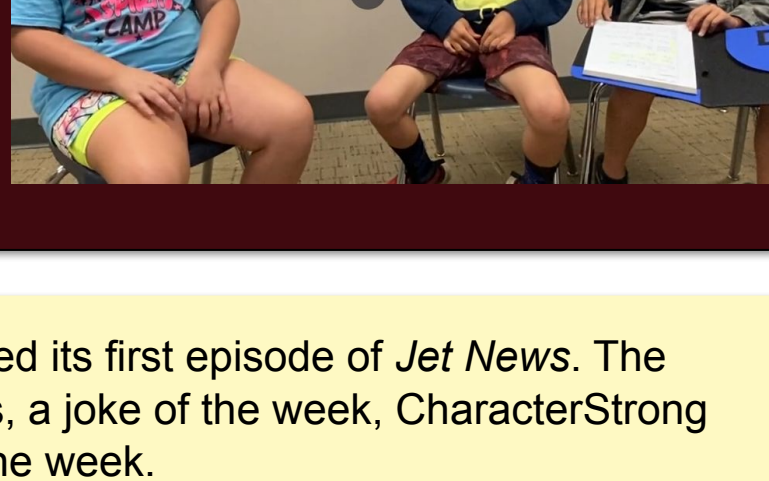
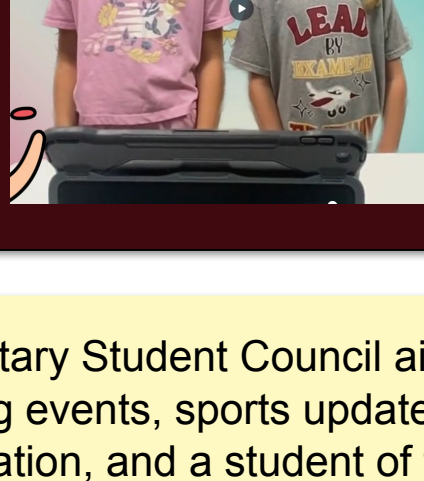
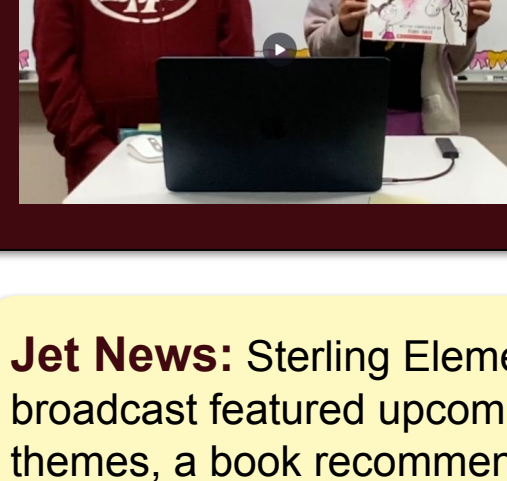
A month in review at Sterling



Booster Bash: The Booster Club kicked off the fall sports season with its annual Booster Bash. The evening featured a volleyball skills showcase, a maroon versus white football scrimmage, and a performance by the cheer squad and elementary summer cheer campers. Spotted Cow Barbecue provided food for the event. It was a great opportunity for families to celebrate the start of the season and for younger students to connect with high school activity participants.



Gold Out: Sterling hosted a Gold Out night during the home football game against Riverside to raise awareness and funds for pediatric cancer research. Gold Out T-shirt and lemonade sales, along with other donations throughout the month, raised approximately \$3,000 for Ava's Army. Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, or participated in support of this cause.



Jet News: Sterling Elementary Student Council aired its first episode of *Jet News*. The broadcast featured upcoming events, sports updates, a joke of the week, CharacterStrong themes, a book recommendation, and a student of the week.

Admin & Committee Reports

Superintendent's Report: The school app has been submitted to the Apple App Store for approval and is currently available to download from the Google Play Store.

Grant updates included three funding opportunities. The district's \$75,000 RHTP Kitchen Grant application is currently under review. A \$5,000 NEA Student Learning Grant application was submitted to support the after-school program, with awards expected to be announced in December. The district will also receive a \$5,000 Chronic Absenteeism Grant in October.

The Pioneer Conference approved officials for the 2027–2028 school year. Beginning with the 2027 season, the volleyball finals will move from Saturday to Thursday. Indoor track participation will increase from two to three entries per event, and the All-Conference Concert will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The district's Rule 11 compliance visit is scheduled for the 2026–2027 school year.

Principal's Report: The school continues to focus on academic success through academic detention intended to increase student accountability. These efforts are intended to help students complete their work, meet expectations, and take greater responsibility for their learning.

Math acceleration efforts are underway for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The first Instructional Planning Guides (IPGs) have been completed, and additional staff workdays are scheduled to continue this process.

Fall test results will be presented to the Board next month.

AD/Transportation Report: The third round of 80-day vehicle inspections will begin this week.

Discussion regarding the Pioneer Conference and MUDECAS included the attempting to be able to use Hudl cameras to stream, conference dues of \$350, and the track timing system.

Action Items

2026-2027 Budget: The school board considered the approval of the 2024-2025 school budget as presented.

MOTION PASSED: 4-0, 2 Absent

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY

Sterling Public Schools (49-0033) 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 21 day of September, 2026 at 6:30 o'clock, P.M., 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	Total Available Resources Before Property Taxes	Total Personal and Real Property Tax Requirement
	2024-2025 (1)	2025-2026 (2)	2026-2027 (3)		(5)	(7)
General	\$ 4,063,477.00	\$ 4,639,740.00	\$ 5,989,909.00	\$ 586,114.00	\$ 3,422,207.00	\$ 3,185,673.00
Depreciation	\$ 247,638.00	\$ 98,237.00	\$ 334,682.00		\$ 334,682.00	
Employee Benefit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Activities	\$ 155,368.00	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 183,952.00		\$ 183,952.00	
School Nutrition	\$ 155,911.00	\$ 174,630.00	\$ 299,879.00		\$ 299,879.00	
Bond	\$ 170,755.00	\$ 136,927.00	\$ 755,844.00		\$ 158,719.00	\$ 603,157.00
Special Building	\$ 3,135.00	\$ 369,831.00	\$ 19,236,729.00		\$ 19,136,729.00	\$ 101,010.00
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking	\$ 71,145.00	\$ -	\$ 202,626.00		\$ 152,626.00	\$ 50,505.00
Cooperative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Student Fee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,019.00		\$ 32,019.00	
TOTALS	\$ 4,867,429.00	\$ 5,579,365.00	\$ 27,035,640.00	\$ 586,114.00	\$ 23,720,813.00	\$ 3,940,345.00
Breakdown of Property Tax				Bond Purposes	Non-Bond Purposes	Total
				\$ 603,157.00	\$ 3,337,188.00	\$ 3,940,345.00

2025-2026 Tax Request: The school board considered the approval of the 2026-2027 tax asking as presented.

MOTION PASSED: 4-0, 2 Absent

Bond Fund(s) K - 8			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Bond Fund(s) 9 - 12			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Bond Fund			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Special Building Fund	833,666.00		0.000000	0.000000	19,236,729.00	101,010.00	0.019259	#DIV/0!	2207%
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund K - 12	146,252.00	46,465.00	0.009838	0.008859	202,626.00	50,505.00	0.009629	-2%	39%
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund K - 8			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund 9 - 12			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Total	6,899,561.00	3,236,670.00	0.685287	0.617115	26,185,108.00	3,940,345.00	0.751280	10%	280%

****A correction was made to the bond levy shown. The original bond levy was \$0.115000 per \$100 of taxable valuation. The corrected bond levy is \$0.146494 per \$100 of taxable valuation.**

The correction reflects the bond valuation required by Nebraska LB 2 for agricultural and horticultural land when calculating taxes for voter-approved school bonds issued under that law. There was no change to the bond fund property tax request.

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2nd Semester Work Study: In accordance with Board Policies 5004 and 5205, the board voted to approve a 2nd semester work study for a senior student to participate in an apprenticeship program.

MOTION PASSED: 4-0, 2 Absent

Discussion Items

Policy Review: The Board reviewed policies 3001, 3002, 3003, 3003.1, 3004, 3004.1, and 3005 as part of the district's ongoing policy review process. The 3000 series generally covers district business operations, including budgeting, deposits, construction bidding, purchasing and procurement, the use of federal funds, and management of the school activities fund.

Next Meeting

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

