

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: December 15, 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

- o **Goal II: Communication Leadership**
- o **Objective:** Strengthen school-community relations by effectively promoting the district's story, fostering engaged communication, and building strong partnerships with internal and external stakeholders.
- o **Strategy I:** Enhance community engagement by implementing clear, consistent, and communication strategies that highlight the district's achievements, priorities, mission, and vision.

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A month in review at Sterling



First Quarter Excellence Rally: Students gathered for the First Quarter Excellence Rally to celebrate the hard work and achievements of the past few months. Staff were recognized by students for the positive impact they make each day, and students were honored with awards for character and academic achievement. The rally wrapped up with games and activities to celebrate everyone's efforts.



Veterans Day Program: This year's Veterans Day program was a heartfelt tribute to our local veterans. Students and staff came together with performances, speeches, and presentations to honor the service and sacrifice of those who have served our country. The event was a special way for our community to show appreciation and gratitude, and it reminded everyone of the courage and dedication of our veterans. It was an inspiring day that left a lasting impression on all who attended. Retired Sergeant Rod Hollman graciously shared his experience in the United States Marine Corps. The program has truly become among the best offered in the area. We would like to thank Mr. Boldt for all of the hard work that he puts in to organizing the event.

Admin & Committee Reports

Superintendent's Report: Area superintendents met with Nebraska state senators Hallstrom and Dorn on Friday November 12. The senators made themselves available to discuss issues facing area schools prior to the upcoming legislative session. Some of the issues that were discussed were nutrition fund balance struggles, recruiting and retaining teachers, truancy issues, areas schools struggling with rapid growth, as well as a few other issues.

The Beef/Bison/Pork program was implemented this year and the first donation of a hog was received in October. The program is intended to help bring locally raised, high-quality meats directly to our school cafeterias. Our next steps are to build awareness of the program among potential donors and develop meaningful ways to recognize and showcase the generosity of those who contribute. Anyone interested in contributing to or learning more about the program can watch for upcoming details or reach out to the school at any time.

We will be meeting with CMBA early this week to discuss the next steps in moving forward with building projects with the passage of the bond. Next steps include finalizing a contract to begin the work and establishing a meeting schedule to guide the building's design process. We look forward to beginning a new phase in the project and will share additional information as plans develop.

Principal's Report: Mr. Davenport shared the results from fall testing.

[MAP Normative Data Fall 2025](#)

AD/Transportation Report: Eighty day vehicle inspections have begun and we will have a report at the December board meeting. The new short bus that was ordered last year is anticipated to arrive in early December. It would be beneficial for a transportation committee meeting to discuss options for van updates and aging smaller vehicles. A few different options are being explored for cold weather fuel options, more information will follow in December.

Basketball seasons are underway participation numbers appear to be 11 boys and 16 girls. The coop with Lewiston as been smooth so far and ADs from both schools met to set the schedule for the first couple of months. Football declarations are due at the end of the month. Sterling will declare to play 6-man which is up to 40 teams currently. The one act home showing will be Monday November 24, at 6:00pm.

Action Items

Commendation: The board voted unanimously to approve a commendation for Sterling teacher Mr. Luke Boldt. Mr. Boldt was recognized for the time and effort he put into organizing this year's Veterans Day Program. His hard work helped make the event meaningful and enjoyable for students, staff, and the community.

MOTION PASSED: 5-0, 1 Absent

General Obligation Bond Resolution: The board reviewed and approved a resolution allowing the district to issue up to \$17.5 million in school building bonds, potentially in multiple series. The proceeds will be directed toward the facility additions, renovations, and repairs that were outlined in the recent bond election approved by voters.

MOTION PASSED: 5-0, 1 Absent

Surplus Laptops: The board reviewed and set prices for surplus laptops in the district. Older M1 processor macbooks will be priced at \$200 each and the newer intel processor macbooks will be priced at \$300 each.

MOTION PASSED: 5-0, 1 Absent

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 NCSA evaluation model for the initial round of evaluation. The final and formal evaluation will take place at the regular December board meeting.

Policy Review: Policies 3049-3060 were reviewed this month. The 3000 series primarily covers policies that affect how the district manages its operations including finances, facilities, safety, staff and student services, and legal or compliance matters. These policies are all currently in legal compliance and no changes were made or recommended.

Local Property for Sale: The board was informed that a property adjacent to the school may soon be for sale. The item was discussed for awareness only, and no considerations or decisions were made at this time.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: The next scheduled board meeting will be the regular December meeting on December 15 at 7:00pm in the Sterling High School Library.

