

The Board of Education of the Hitchcock County Schools met October 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Distance Learning Room at the high school in Trenton. Present were board members Scott, Webb, Cook, Melchert, Hagan, and Marks. Also present were Superintendent Erickson, Principal Wallace, Principal Collins, Assistant Principal/Counselor McCarter, E. O'Byrne, J. Mockry, C. Rippen, and C. Hrnchir.

President Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Notice of the board's adherence to the Nebraska Open Meeting Law posted on the north wall of the meeting room was given. The meeting was properly advertised on the Hitchcock County Schools website: <https://www.hcfalcons.org> and notice that meetings will be advertised on the website has been published in the Hitchcock County News on Thursday, July 16, 2026; July 23, 2026; July 30, 2026 and August 6, 2026.

Moved by Cook; seconded by Hagan to approve the October 2026 regular meeting agenda as presented. Aye votes Hagan, Marks, Melchert, Webb, Scott and Cook; nay votes none.

President Scott welcomed visitors. There was no public comment

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Webb to approve the consent agenda as presented. Aye votes Marks, Melchert, Webb, Scott, Cook and Hagan; nay votes none. The consent agenda consisted of the following: (1) Minutes of the September 2026 regular board meeting. (2) The Activity Fund. (3) The Bill Roster with general fund bills totaling \$507,418.88 and lunch fund bills totaling \$42,079.53. (4) Other funds.

Chris Rippen presented the Board with the Financial Literacy status report. James Mockry presented the Board with the Computer Science & Technology status report. The 2026 graduating Seniors passed all necessary requirements.

Superintendent Erickson presented the board with Policy #4056 – Superintendent Evaluation and KSB Law policy recommendations for Policy #4025 – Superintendent & #4005 – Communication Between the Board and District Employees. Moved by Melchert; seconded by Cook to review & retain policy #4056 – Superintendent Evaluation, #4025 – Superintendent, & #4005 – Communication Between the Board and District Employees. Aye votes Melchert, Webb, Scott, Cook, Hagan, and Marks; nay votes none.

Superintendent Erickson presented the board with a new policy #3035 – Chain of Command. Moved by Scott; seconded by Hagan to adopt board policy #3035 – Chain of Command. Aye votes Webb, Scott, Cook, Hagan, Marks, and Melchert; nay votes none.

Discussion for the purchase of two storage units for the high school for \$4,100 each was held. These units could be modified with a roofing structure to provide covered parking for school vehicles as well. Moved by Cook; seconded by Webb to purchase two storage units for the high school for \$4,100 each to be paid out of the Special Building Fund. Aye votes Scott, Cook, Hagan, Marks, Melchert and Webb; nay votes none.

Moved by Cook; seconded by Hagan to move into executive at 7:17 pm to discuss Mrs. Erickson's Superintendent evaluation and goals for the 2026-2027 school year. Aye votes by Cook, Hagan, Marks, Melchert, Webb and Scott; nay votes none.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Marks to move out of executive session at 7:44 pm. Aye votes Hagan, Marks, Melchert, Webb, Scott, and Cook; nay votes none.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Cook to move into executive session at 7:45 pm to discuss personnel needs for the 2026-2027 school year. Aye votes Marks, Melchert, Webb, Scott, Cook, and Hagan; nay votes none.

Moved by Hagan; seconded by Marks to move out of executive session at 8:01pm. Aye votes Melchert, Webb, Scott, Cook, Hagan, and Marks; nay votes none.

Committee reports as follows: (1) Building Committee members Cook, Melchert, & Marks met at 6pm prior to the meeting. Mrs. Erickson and the committee members toured the Bus Barn facility and shared information and discussed options for the Shop classroom, electrical, and water for restroom & fire suppression. Mrs. Erickson will reach out the architect for a proposal for the next board meeting. (2) Negotiations committee members Scott, Melchert & Webb will meet with Hitchcock County Teachers Association representative, Chris Rippen at 5:15pm on November 9, 2026 prior to the board meeting to begin preparation for the 2028-2029 teacher negotiations.

Elementary Principal Wallace's report as follows: (1) 09/23 – Elem. Teachers attended a morning WORDS PD1 (Phonological Awareness/Science of Reading) session. Parent Teacher Conferences – 1:00 – 8:00pm were held with 82% parent attendance. (2) 09/29 – 10/13 - The Believe Kids Fundraiser for the Zoo Trips. As of October 12th, the 3rd – 6th grade students have raised \$5,418.00 with one more day to go! (3) WORDS coaching started this month for the K-5 teachers. (4) 10/08 - 10/09 - Mrs. Mockry & Mrs. Wallace attend NeMTSS Summit in Kearney. (5) 10/09 – K-1st grade classes walked to the Culbertson Fire Station for a fire safety presentation. (6) 10/14 – 4th Grade students will be attending Kids Fitness and Nutrition day at MPCC. (7) 10/14 – Beef to School Grill out day.

Jr./Sr. High Principal Collins' report as follows: Cross Country – We have 4 runners competing consistently throughout the season. Tavin Rousselle has placed at most meets. Tavin broke the school record at the RPAC meet. 10/15 – XC Districts in Grant. 10/23 – State XC in Kearney for any qualifiers. Football – Varsity team is 5-2 going into the last two games of the season. The last couple weeks have been tough for the boys but they look to bounce back this week. We have Hemingford this week and Maywood-Hayes Center next week both at home. The boys have a good shot to win both games and set themselves up for the playoffs. JV Football has had one game against Arapahoe and will play another tonight against Sutherland. Volleyball – The varsity team is 8-17 currently with a Triangular against Cambridge and Southwest on 10/13. They kick off RPAC at Benkelman on Thurs., 10/15 against Dundy County-Stratton. The girls have a favorable sub – district to make a district final if they put some complete games together. The JV have gotten in some good time recently with three games at Goodland last week and another game 10/13 against Southwest. One Act – Our play production cast consists of 19 individuals. They are performing the play *Terror Walks Tonight* by John Kirkpatrick. Practices are being held every Monday and Thursday from 6:30-8:30pm in the Culbertson gym. Competition will start next month. HS Quiz Bowl – HS Quiz Bowl students are practicing for competition during our enrichment period 1-2 days a week. JH Fall Sports will wrap up next week with our makeup home games against Med Valley & Jr High Volleyball tournament today, 10/12.

Assistant Principal/Counselor McCarter's report as follows: (1) 09/30 – RPAC Stu-Co event in McCook. (2) 10/03 - ASVAB Testing – Juniors & Sophomores. (2) 10/07 – Ricky Musgrave – Guest Motivational Speaker at Jr/Sr High. (3) 10/08 & 10/09 – NeMTSS Summit attended by Mrs. Duvel, Mrs. Englott, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Mockry & Ms. McCarter. (4) 10/14 – Grill out to celebrate our Beef to School Program. (5) 10/12 – 10/16 – Homecoming Week. 10/11 - Community Pep Rally & Hot dog feed was well attended. Booster Club decorated the Jr/Sr High school building. 10/16 – Football game at 3:00pm. Homecoming Coronation after the game with Homecoming dance to follow.

Superintendent Erickson's report as follows: (1) The past several weeks have been dedicated to completion of reports for NDE.

President Scott adjourned the meeting at 8:16 PM. The next board meeting will be held Monday, November 9, 2026 at 6:00 PM; note the change to the earlier start time. The agenda kept continuously current is available to the public for items of an emergency nature. The meeting is open to the public.

General Fund bills

20/20 Technologies – contracted services	3,912.14
McCook Ace Hardware – classroom/grds/bldg supply	241.88
AFLAC – payroll deductions	578.14
American Family Ins. Co – payroll deductions	2,517.70
Tara Anderson – reimbursement	34.95
Bentley & Kisker, PC – accounting services	1,350.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield – health insurance	70,068.53
Bosselman Energy – bus/bldg. fuel	2,443.69
C & K Distributors – classroom/grounds supply	62.49
Comfort Inn – travel/training	238.00
Community Hospital – DOT physical	85.50
D & S Hardware – grounds supply	29.99
Dr. Drain – bldg. maint./repair	625.00
Eakes Office Solutions – copier lease/office supply	5,779.64
Ebsco Information Services – library textbook/periodicals	179.57
Employee Benefit fund– payroll deduction	1,978.29
ESU 16 – contract sped services	82.17
ESU Coordinating Council – PowerSchool SIS	28,989.50
Farmers Coop – bus/sped bus/grounds fuel/parts	1,866.11
Follett Software Co. – library software	1,172.08
Great Plains Communications – phone bill/internet	2,032.44
Harris School Solutions – acct. software	4,276.00
HCHS Petty Cash – reimbursements	32.10
HCS General Fund – state tax reimb.	1.05
HCS Flex Plan – contributions	2,016.66
Henderson State Bank – FICA/taxes	58,282.59
Credit Management Services – payroll deductions	377.81
HMH Education Co. – textbooks	507.55
Hometown Leasing – copiers	515.03
Hot Lunch fund – funds transfer/ payments	26,772.55
Charlee Hrnchir – bldg. supply reimb.	16.97
Ideal Linen – custodial/kitchen supply	422.04
KSB Law – legal fees	427.50
Lathem Time Corp. – payroll software	894.00
Legal Shield – payroll deduction	163.71
Thomas Lewis – classroom supply reimb.	184.33
Medical Air Service Assoc. – payroll deductions	137.00
McCook Gazette/Rust Publishing – library text/periodical	165.00
MCI – long distance	50.57
Mead Lumber – classroom/bldg./grounds supply	1,370.87
Matrix Trust Co – annuities	4,179.91
Ricky Musgrave – REAP prof. services	300.00
HCS Retirement Account – retirement	40,286.75
NE Department of Revenue – state taxes	7,580.88
Nippon Sanso Matheson – classroom supply	108.30
New York Life Ins Co – payroll deduction	103.36
Optum – FSA fees	150.00
Principal Life In Co – disability	1,314.17
NSASSP Region V – principal dues	60.00
Rippen Oil – bus fuel/parts/labor/grounds fuel	1,345.85

Scholastic – text/periodicals	223.06
Scoop Media – ad/legal printing	581.03
Sensel Welding & Repair – classroom supply	146.54
Snell Service, Inc. – bldg. prof. services	7,532.58
Southwest Public Power District – electric	3,858.78
Special Building fund – payroll deduction	520.00
Staples – sped supply	147.00
TKO Pest Control – pest control	200.00
Trails West – bus/SPED bus fuel/admin	4,408.46
UniFirst Corp – custodial supply	156.45
Unitech – bldg. supply	137.50
US Bank – credit card	5,256.22
Verified First – background checks	379.10
Village of Culbertson – water/trash/sewer	662.00
Village of Trenton – utilities	6,425.74
Vision Service Plan – payroll deductions	441.99
VK Electronics – bldg. equipment	879.99
Westlake Financial Services – payroll deduction	387.17
Carol Wimer – classroom supply reimb.	11.76
Dave Wimer - bus supply reimb.	14.99
Payroll – net (gross - \$284,364.90)	198,738.16

Lunch Fund bills

AFLAC – payroll deduction	107.76
Cash-Wa Distributing – food/supply	20,493.19
Fresh Foods – kitchen food	317.24
HCS Petty Cash – kitchen food	32.59
Henderson State Bank – FICA/taxes	2,901.26
Credit Management Services – payroll deduction	394.12
Ideal Linen - kitchen supply	309.61
HCS Retirement Account – retirement	2,165.60
NE Department of Revenue – state taxes	355.12
US Bank – credit card	83.68
US Foods – kitchen food/supply	2,969.49
Payroll – net (gross - \$15,600.35)	11,949.87