

# Board of Education Special Meeting

August 25, 2025 5:00 PM

Blair Community Schools Central Office  
1326 Park St., Blair NE 68008

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Information concerning the Open Meeting Law, Chapter 84, Article 14 of Nebraska State Statutes, is attached to the online agenda for viewing. The online agenda can be viewed by visiting the Blair Community Schools website at [www.blairschools.org](http://www.blairschools.org). The meeting notice was published in the Washington County Pilot-Tribune & Enterprise on Tuesday, August 19, 2025.

## 1. Call to Order

Mrs. Kari Loseke, President, called the Board of Education Special meeting to order at 5:00pm.

## 2. Roll Call

Present Board Members: Denise Cada, Steve Callaghan, Nate Larsen, Kari Loseke, Bob Schoby, Melaini Sturm and Courtney Tabor.

### 2.1 Approval of Absent Board Members

**Motion Passed:** I move to approve the absence of Board Member Ginger Fredericksen passed with a motion by Courtney Tabor and a second by Melaini Sturm.

Denise Cada	No
Steve Callaghan	No
Ginger Fredericksen	Absent
Nate Larsen	No
Kari Loseke	Yes
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

## 3. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Randall Gilson led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 4. Comments From The Public

Public comment was heard from two patrons.

## 5. Business

### 5.1. 2024-25 End of the Year Claims

**Motion Passed:** I move to authorize the Administration to pay all claims through August 31, 2025 passed with a motion by Bob Schoby and a second Nate Larsen.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Absent
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Yes
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

### 5.2. Activity Fund Transfer

The District already transferred the budgeted \$80,000 from the General Fund to the Activity Fund. Mr. Shearer shared the current status of the Activity Funds deficit balances and does not recommend an

additional amount be transferred from the General Fund to support the Activity Fund.

### **5.3. 2024-25 Saving Depreciation Transfer**

The district budgeted \$1,000,000 to be transferred into its Savings Depreciation Fund for 2024-25. Mr. Shearer recommends transferring that amount plus an additional \$40,000 to start a new line item in Savings Depreciation for staff computers. Mr. Scott Macholan, Director of Technology, had budgeted that amount, but did not need to spend it in 2024-25. Going forward, Mr. Macholan would like to consider leasing all staff machines, replacing them at the same time, similar to the recent lease for student iPads. Mr. Shearer would use Savings Depreciation to finance any possible future lease.

**Motion Passed:** I move to approve the transfer of \$1,040,000 from the 2024-25 General Fund into the Savings Depreciation Account passed with a motion by Steve Callaghan and a second by Courtney Tabor.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Absent
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Yes
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

### **5.4. Discussion of Financial Board Audit**

The Board discussed conducting a Financial Board Audit, with Mrs. Loseke noting that the Finance Committee expressed interest in reviewing expenditures to ensure they are necessary and beneficial for students. Additionally, the committee aims to realign certain Board policies related to purchasing procedures, credit card uses, and curriculum purchases for transparency and accountability.

**Motion Passed:** I move to proceed forward with a Board Audit of all schools' finances to be completed over the new few months. The Finance Committee will work with Dr. Gilson to review and update existing Board Financial Policies. During this period, spending will be limited to essential operations only passed with a motion by Melaini Sturm and a second by Bob Schoby.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Absent
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Yes
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

### **5.5. 2025-26 Budget: Resolution to Exceed Default Property Tax Authority by Increasing the District's Revenue Growth by an Additional 6%**

Dr. Gilson shared a presentation to support his request that the Board of Education approve the additional 6% revenue growth resolution. The district only received a \$435,902 increase in its certified tax request authority over last year's non-bond tax request to share with both the General Fund and Building fund. In the previous year, the district lost \$402,433 in property tax request authority; as a result, it decreased its overall tax request. That is only a net increase of \$33,469 in property taxes for both the General Fund and Building Fund over the last two years. If 70% of the Board approves a resolution to access up to 6% additional revenue growth, that would provide up to an additional \$1,742,701 of funding to support the General Fund or Building Fund.

School funding has had challenges due to state funding changes and property tax restrictions. Blair Schools maintains the lowest school levy in the county and is among Nebraska's most tax-efficient districts.

Some Board members felt the current financials show good cash reserves and a balanced budget and do not feel there is an immediate need for an override at this time.

**Motion Failed:** I move to approve a Resolution for 6% Additional Revenue Growth Exceeding Certified Property Tax Authority as presented failed with a motion by Denise Cada and a second by Nate Larsen.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Absent
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	No
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	No
Courtney Tabor	No

**Motion Passed:** I move to approve a Resolution for 3% Additional Revenue Growth Exceeding Certified Property Tax Authority as presented passed with a motion by Nate Larsen and a second by Denise Cada.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Absent
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Yes
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	No
Courtney Tabor	Yes

### **5.6. 2024-25 Preliminary School District Budget**

Mr. Shearer presented budget information to Board Members at Budget Workshops held on August 20, 2025, and August 21, 2025. At those workshops, Mr. Shearer and Dr. Gilson gathered Board Member feedback on a proposed School District Budget and Tax Request draft they are recommending being shared for Public Hearing(s). The Board is only approving tonight, a proposed budget that will be advertised via public notice for its public hearing(s) to be held at 7:00pm on September 08, 2025, prior to the start of the Regular Board Meeting and if necessary, at the Joint Public Hearing at 6:00pm on September 18, 2025 at the Blair Public Library. Only if the board decides on a budget for public hearings that shows a property tax increase of more than \$619,076.73 for non-bond related property tax, it would be required to attend the September 18, 2025 joint public hearing. The Board will not approve the adoption of its Budget and Tax Resolution until sometime after the budget and tax public hearings request.

**Motion Passed:** I move to present the proposed 2025-26 School District Budget for Public Hearing, Option C with a Total Proposed Property Tax Request of \$23,150,370 and a Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers Total in the amount of \$69,203,626, at the September 8 2025 Board of Education Meeting passed with a motion by Bob Schoby and a second by Nate Larsen.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Absent
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Yes
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	No
Courtney Tabor	Yes

### **5.7. Possible September Special Board Meeting to Include the 2025-26 Budget and Tax Request Resolution Adoption**

Since the Board adopted a Resolution to Exceed Property Tax Authority by up to 3% Additional Revenue Growth and approved a budget to be presented for public hearings that will exceed the allowable dollar amount of increase to Non-Bond Property Tax request of \$619,076.73, the District is now required to participate in the Joint Public Hearing on September 18, 2025. Therefore, a Special Board of Education meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2025 at 5:00pm to adopt a 2025-26 Budget and Tax Request Resolution.

### **6. Adjournment**

**Motion Passed:** Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:47pm passed with a motion by Steve Callaghan and a second by Melaini Sturm.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Absent
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Yes
Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

A Public Work Session immediately followed the Regular Board Meeting. Discussion items on the Agenda; Ideology and Goal Setting. The Board adjourned at 7:29pm.

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Angie Conety  
Board Secretary

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Randall Gilson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent