

BOARD MINUTES

September 17, 2025

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for Shepherd School District #37 was held Wednesday, September 17, 2025 in the Board Room of the New Addition. Chairman, Carl Openshaw, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Members present: Shane Flowers, Julie Hinkle, Carl Openshaw, Justin Peterson, Shane Rekdal, Austin Schlosser, and Shayne Vandivort.

Members excused: None.

Superintendent – Drea O’Donnell, Clerk – Kinsey Szillat, Middle School Principal – Rich Hash, High School Principal – KJ Poepping, and High School AD – Tina Downing, Middle School AD – Dan Hansen, and Transportation Director – Bobby Trotter were present for the entire meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

An Elementary motion was made by Shane Flowers, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve the Elementary business claims and accounts, to include August claims 134262 – 134332.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve the High School business claims and accounts, to include August claims 134262– 134332, and the approval of the August regular meeting minutes.

Both motions passed unanimously.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None.

ADMINISTRATION

The administrators recapped their reports.

INFORMATIONAL

1. Building Use Requests
2. Water

3. Nurse's Report
4. School Mission and Vision Goals
The mission and Vision Committee met before the school year and developed goals for upcoming year. The goals are attached to the agenda.
5. Resignations –
Salome Antonio - Custodian
6. Missing Children
7. Shepherd Budget Information
8. Milligan Data

OLD BUSINESS

Travel Bus Purchases 2025

The Transportation Director, Mr. Trotter, recommended the purchase of the Ultra Coachliner DXL from National Bus as opposed to the used American Dreamliner from American Bus. He stated the Ultra Coachliner is a purpose built Coach bus with a better option package from the factory, better suspension setup, and is designed to transport people comfortably.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shane Rekdal, seconded by Austin Schlosser, to approve the purchase of the Ultra Coachliner DXL from National Bus.

The motion passed unanimously.

Negotiations with SEA

The Superintendent, Mrs. O'Donnell, recommended the approval of an MOU to the 2025-2027 negotiated agreement. The change in language was approved by the negotiations committee.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Justin Peterson, to accept the MOU changes to the negotiated agreement between the Shepherd School District and the Shepherd Education Association for the 2025-2027 school years.

The motion passed unanimously.

AAU Wrestling Building Proposal

Luke Knaff, Austin Ketchem, and Scott Berens, all current wrestling coaches, were present to discuss the AAU wrestling building. Luke Knaff stated they had originally discussed needing two acres for their building, but after further discussion with engineers and other professionals they determined one acre would be sufficient for the building, septic, and drain field. The Shepherd AAU wrestling program has been in communication with a civil engineer regarding property lines. The civil engineer has recommended a boundary relocation of property lines be done. After discussion, Carl Openshaw requested the AAU group to test the ground water for septic. If a septic can't be placed

the building cannot be located on the land. The results of the ground water test and further details will be provided by the Shepherd AAU wrestling program at a future meeting.

No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Human Resources

Athletics

KJ Poepping – Head High School Golf Coach

Drea O'Donnell – Assistant High School Golf Coach

Advisors

Aspen Jonas – Junior Class Advisor

Alex Bohle – Junior Class Advisor

Kylee Billingsley – FFA Advisor, with a stipend of \$2,000.00

An Elementary motion was made by Shane Flowers, seconded by Julie Hinkle, to approve hiring the employees as listed.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shayne Vandivort, to approve hiring the employees as listed.

Both motions passed unanimously.

Out of District Students

None.

Drug Testing

Currently, drug testing is done with any student who is in a high school activity or MHSA athletic group. We have middle school students who participate at the high school level and in the same activities as the high school students. The District would like to drug test students in activities and athletics in grades 6th-12th.

An Elementary motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Rekdal, to approve drug testing those students in activities and athletics in grades 6th-8th beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Track Area Drainage Project

Two quotes were presented to the Board to fix the track area drainage issue that occurs each time it rains. Mr. Cumber recommended Kananen Excavation to complete the work.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Shayne Vandivort, seconded by Shane Flowers, to approve Kananen Excavation to repair the track drainage.

The motion passed unanimously.

High School Gym Doors

The High School gym doors have had issues closing correctly and staying open. Two quotes were presented for the replacement of the gym doors.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Justin Peterson, to approve replacing the High School gym doors through Kings Door and Glass.

The motion passed unanimously.

Girls Wrestling Coach

The High School wrestling program approached the Athletic Committee requesting to add a wrestling coach due to the increased participation in girls wrestling. With only two coaches in the past, they have run into issues splitting the coaches' time at tournaments and sometimes resulting in the girls not being able to travel to certain tournaments.

A High School motion was made by Julie Hinkle, seconded by Shane Flowers, to approve hiring an additional assistant girls wrestling coach.

The motion passed unanimously.

Student Discipline Matter – Possible Closed Session

The Board Chair moved this item to the end of the meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Safety Committee – The Safety Committee met on September 8th. Notes from that meeting are attached to the agenda.
- Insurance Committee - Insurance Committee will meet September 29th at 6:00pm in the Boardroom.
- Negotiations Committee – Negotiations Committee will not meet this year.
- CTE Committee – CTE Committee will meet November 10th at 6:00pm.

At 7:47pm the Board Chair moved the meeting to executive session for the Student Discipline Matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Student Discipline Matter

The Board resumed open session at 8:15pm.

A High School/Joint motion was made by Austin Schlosser, seconded by Shayne Vandivort, to allow student 819124534 the opportunity to attend siblings' events on school campus under parent supervision.

The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Time of adjournment: 8:16pm.