

## **Board of Education Work Session**

February 9, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

Blair Central Office

1326 Park Street, Blair NE 68008

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Information concerning the Open Meeting Law, Chapter 84, Article 14 of Nebraska State Statutes, is posted in the room at a location accessible to members of the public and attached to the online agenda. The meeting notice was published in the Washington County Pilot-Tribune & Enterprise on Tuesday, February 3, 2026.

### **1. Call to Order**

Mr. Bob Schoby, Board President, called the Board of Education Work Session to order at 6:00pm.

### **2. Roll Call**

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

### **3. Comments from the Public – None**

### **4. Items for Discussion**

#### **4.1. Arbor Park Elementary and Otte Middle School Building Project**

Eileen Korth, Architect with Jackson and Jackson Associates, and Jeff Steinbeck, Director of District Operations, presented plans for Arbor Park Elementary and Otte Middle School that prioritize safety by creating secure vestibules. They plan to begin work this summer and have key spaces ready for Fall 2026 to begin the school year.

Arbor Park Elementary: Temporary operations will convert the former locker room into temporary administrative and nurse spaces by removing showers, addition partitions and finishes, and creating a secure corridor with temporary buzz-in access. This will serve as the main entrance for the beginning of the 2026-27 school year. The old administrative space will be converted to expand the cafeteria, and work should be completed prior to the beginning of the school year.

Otte Middle School: Renovating a classroom near the building's main entrance will provide clear sightlines to the entry and establish the needed secure entry. In addition, it will provide space for a reception area, the assistant principal's office, and a conference room. Work should be completed prior to the beginning of the 2026-27 school year.

The work session concluded at 6:42 p.m.

# **Board of Education Regular Meeting**

February 9, 2026, 7:00 P.M.

Blair Central Office

1326 Park Street, Blair NE 68008

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Information concerning the Open Meeting Law, Chapter 84, Article 14 of Nebraska State Statutes, is posted in the room at a location accessible to members of the public and attached to the online agenda. The meeting notice was published in the Washington County Pilot-Tribune & Enterprise on Tuesday, February 3, 2026.

## **1. Call to Order**

Mr. Bob Schoby, Board President, called the Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:00pm.

## **2. Roll Call**

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

### **2.1 Approval of Absent Board Member(s) – None**

## **3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Heather English, a 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher at Deerfield Elementary, and some of her students led the Board in the Pledge and presented on the book The Wild Robot.

## **4. Approval of Emergency Additions to the Agenda – None**

## **5. Call for Removal of Consent Agenda Items - None**

## **6. Consent Agenda**

**Motion Passed:** I move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented passed with a motion by Steve Callaghan and a second by Melaini Sturm.

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

### **6.1. Waiver of reading minutes from previous meeting**

### **6.2. Acceptance of minutes of the previous meeting as published**

### **6.3. Receipt of Communications**

### **6.4. Treasurer's Report**

### **6.5. Audit of Claims**

## **7. Business**

### **7.1. Items removed from Consent Agenda - None**

### **7.2. Recognitions**

#### **7.2.1. Unified Sports**

Coach Monica Maly presented on Blair Unified Sports and highlighted their recent basketball game with Elkhorn Unified. It had strong support from both the students and community.

### **7.3. Acceptance of Gifts**

#### **7.3.1 Cubby's Convenience Store – Blair**

Cubby's Convenience Store donated (\$1,195) from their "Let's Raise Some Dough" fundraiser. Cubby's donates \$1.00 for every large pizza sold at their Blair location to Blair Community Schools. Thank you to Cubby's for their continued support and commitment to Blair Community Schools.

**Motion Passed:** I move to accept the donation, in the amount of \$1,195.00, from Cubby's Convenience Store passed with a motion by Melaini Sturm and a second by Kari Loseke.

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

#### **7.3.2. Blair Community Schools Foundation – Bear-y Merry Grant Program**

In December, the Board of Education approved \$90,500 in Bear-y Merry Grants from the Blair Community Schools Foundation for funding to support STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Math) classroom improvements by providing supplies, admissions, or access to resources that foster creativity and offer innovative ways to engage students. Unfortunately, South Early Childhood Center was inadvertently left out, and the Foundation would like to award them \$10,000. We would like to thank them for their continued support and commitment to Blair Community Schools.

**Motion Passed:** I move to accept the grant donation in the amount of \$10,000 from the Blair Community Schools Foundation as part of the Bear-y Merry Grant Program for South Early Childhood Center passed with a motion by Melaini Sturm and a second by Courtney Tabor.

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

#### **7.3.3. Blair Bear Backers Donation**

The Blair Bear Backers donated \$4,760 for the purchase of new middle school track uniforms. We would like to thank them for their continued support and commitment to Blair Community Schools.

**Motion Passed:** I move to accept the donation from the Blair Bear Backers in the amount of \$4,760 for the purchase of new middle school track uniforms passed with a motion by Courtney Tabor and a second by Nate Larsen.

Denise Cada	Yes
Steve Callaghan	Yes
Ginger Fredericksen	Yes
Nate Larsen	Yes
Kari Loseke	Yes

Bob Schoby	Yes
Melaini Sturm	Yes
Courtney Tabor	Yes

#### **7.3.4. Balls Out Motors Donation**

Balls Out Motors would like to donate a golf cart valued at approximately \$5,000.

Balls Out Motors has been a very generous supporter of Blair Community Schools over the last several years, lending carts for events such as homecoming parades and providing carts for various school activities. We would like to thank them for their continued support and commitment to Blair Community Schools.

**Motion Passed:** I move to accept the donation from Balls Out Motors for a golf cart valued at approximately \$5,000 passed with a motion by Courtney Tabor and a second by Melaini Sturm.

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

#### **7.4. Consideration of Communications**

**7.5. Comments from The Public** - Public comment was heard from two (2) patrons.

#### **7.6. Committee Reports**

##### **7.6.1. Policy/Curriculum Committee**

The Policy/Curriculum Committee met on Monday, January 19, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. A report from the committee was given by Denise Cada.

**Motion Passed:** I move approve on first and final notification revisions to policy 103.03-Title IX – Procedure for Complaints of sexual Harassment passed with a motion by Denise Cada and a second by Courtney Tabor.

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

##### **7.6.2. BG&T Committee**

The Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation Committee met on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. A report from the committee was given by Steve Callaghan.

##### **7.6.3. Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee met on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. A report from the committee was given by Courtney Tabor.

**Motion Passed:** I move to approve the amended contract agreement with Nannen Physical Therapy effective January 2026 as presented passed with a motion by Courtney Tabor and a second by Steve Callaghan.

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

**Motion Passed:** I move to approve the quote from Sterling, in the amount of \$52,813.19, to replace the networks firewall passed with a motion by Courtney Tabor and a second by Kari Loseke.

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

**Motion Passed:** I move to approve the quote from Heartland School Solutions, in the amount of \$8,205, for their cloud-based food service product Mosiac passed with a motion by Courtney Tabor and a second by Kari Loseke.

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

**Motion Passed:** I move to approve the purchase of a 2026 Chevrolet Truck Suburban from Sid Dillon in the amount of \$68,761 to be paid out of the Savings Depreciation account passed with a motion by Courtney Tabor and a second by Kari Loseke.

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

### 7.7. 2026-27 Negotiated Agreement

**Motion Passed:** I move to approve the Negotiated Agreement between the Blair Board of Education and the Blair Education Association for the 2026-27 school year passed with a motion by Kari Loseke and a second by Melaini Sturm.

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

### 7.8. Approval of New Teacher(s)

- Kelli Westphal – Blair High School English Teacher

**Motion Passed:** I move to approve the new certified staff member, Kelli Westphal, as presented passed with a motion by Steve Callaghan and a second by Courtney Tabor.

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

### 7.9. Acceptance of Resignations and Retirement

- Jennifer Fowler, ACP Teacher at Otte Middle School - 32 Years (Retirement)
- Emily Peatrowsky, English Teacher at Blair High School - 11 Years (Resignation)
- Amanda Melcher, Guidance Counselor at Otte Middle School - 1 Year (Resignation)

**Motion Passed:** I move to accept the retirement of certified staff member, Jennifer Fowler, and the resignation of certified staff members, Emily Peatrowky and Amanda Melcher, upon the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year passed with a motion by Courtney Tabor and a second by Kari Loseke.

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

### 7.10. Superintendent Report

### 7.11. Informational Item

### 8. Adjournment

**Motion Passed:** I move to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm passed with a motion by Steve Callaghan and a second by Kari Loseke.

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

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Angie Conety  
Secretary Board of Education

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Dr. Don Johnson  
Interim Superintendent