

CUSTER PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday October 8, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Gym Lobby

Attendance:

Members of the Board:

- Chairman: Toby Abel
- Vice-Chairman: Bryan Buller
- Anna Hein
- Kacey Keith
- Sara Stieg

Custer Schools Business Office

- Superintendent: Lance Olson
- District Clerk/Business Manager: Adriana Mayorga

1. Call to Order & Quorum

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairman Abel at 7:00 PM. A quorum was established.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All attendees participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

No public comment was offered at the beginning of the meeting.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence was shared with the board prior to moving into agenda items.

5. Student of the Month

Students of the Month were recognized by their teachers. Mrs. McGuire nominated Tenley Strecker for her strong academics, organization, kindness, and leadership among her peers. Mrs. Elliott nominated Jackson Hazlett, noting his increased independence, strong work ethic, and positive sense of humor. Hunter Buller was recognized for

stepping up as a leader in the classroom and being a dependable and helpful student. Teagan Ruff was nominated by multiple teachers for her responsibility, critical thinking skills, and leadership in extracurricular activities. Each student was commended for their positive impact on the school community.

6. Consent Agenda

District Clerk/Business Manager Adriana Mayorga presented the financial report, stating that August figures have been corrected and finalized, September is pending county postings, and October numbers are currently a projection. An interest posting error on the activity account was corrected, and activities funds are balanced.

The Board reviewed the September 10, 2025 meeting minutes (as corrected), district claims, and activity claims. Mrs. Hein made the motion to approve the consent agenda as corrected. Mrs. Stieg seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

Activities Director Report

Activities Director Adam Tunnell reported that the fall sports season is wrapping up with football and volleyball concluding and junior high basketball beginning. Because of playoff possibilities, the district may need to arrange travel and lodging, particularly if the team travels to Lincoln or Great Falls.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Olson shared that enrollment stands at 92 students and no high school students are currently on the ineligible or warning list. The district is transitioning to digital board packets, and plans are in place to support board members with logins and access. He also discussed ongoing issues with the football field lighting, noting that the

current draw exceeds breaker capacity. LED upgrades and breaker replacements are being explored with Action Electric and Supply/Mountain Electric, and formal quotes will be forthcoming. Superintendent Olson also previewed updates to the Open Enrollment Policy and Integrated Strategic Action Plan, which will be reviewed and finalized by March 2026.

8. Business

Pepsi/Activity Vendor Discussion

The Board held a discussion regarding Pepsi as the current activity beverage vendor. Staff reported ongoing issues with inconsistent deliveries, short-dated product, and lack of card readers or adequate coolers at events. Coke has expressed interest in partnering with the district and indicated flexibility to provide equipment such as carts, coolers, and Rebel-branded signage without requiring a binding contract. They also offer Dr Pepper products, which have been frequently requested by students. Pepsi later communicated that they may be able to offer warehouse pickups in Hardin, better equipment support, and card reader options, though local follow-through remains uncertain. The Board also discussed the possibility of an existing scoreboard sponsorship agreement with Pepsi. Administration will work to locate any documentation of this agreement before the Board considers a formal change.

Four-Wheeler Purchase

The Board discussed the possibility of purchasing a four-wheeler for snow removal. Concerns were raised about sidewalk width, cost, and practicality. A community member expressed interest in submitting a snow removal proposal. No action was taken at this time, and the administration will solicit proposals before proceeding.

Generator for Boiler Room

There were no new updates on the generator, and this item will be revisited at a future meeting.

Cruiser Repair

The Board reviewed a \$19,309 bid from Beartooth for a rear axle assembly replacement, including bearings and approximately 25 hours of labor, with an additional attempt to address the A/C issue during the repair.

Mr. Buller made the motion to approve the bid from Beartooth. Mrs. Keith seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Sale of Bus #3

The Board considered a \$6,000 offer from Mike Ryan for Bus #3. Delivery to Billings will be arranged internally.

Mrs. Hein made the motion to approve the sale of Bus #3. Mr. Buller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

HS Golf

The Board received an informational update on the golf program. No action was taken.

9. Policy Updates

The Board reviewed and approved changes to Policies 2335, 3310, 5255, 5123, 3141, 5252, 1009FE, and 2100. These updates reflect legislative changes including HB 471

(human sexuality and identity instruction), HB 400 (pronouns and discipline), re-hiring of retired educators, enrollment policy updates, and required calendar commemorations.

Mrs. Hein made the motion to approve the policies as presented. Mrs. Stieg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Personnel Employ Additional Substitute Teachers

The Board approved Carla L, Madison Kline, and Michelle Larson as substitutes pending background checks.

Mrs. Hein made the motion to approve the substitutes as presented. Mr. Buller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Employ Bus Route Driver

The Board approved the hiring of Dean Goettle. as a non-CDL bus route driver, pending completion of background and licensing requirements.

Mrs. Stieg made the motion to approve Dean Goettle. Mrs. Hein seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Superintendent Quarterly Review

The Board determined that the individual's right to privacy outweighed the public's right to know. The meeting entered closed session for the Superintendent's quarterly review at 8:15PM. Adriana Mayorga was designated to take notes for the closed session.

The close session opened up at 9:38pm. Mrs. Hein made the motion to approve closed session meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Buller.

12. Good of the Order

None at this time.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40pm.

Next Regular Meeting: November 12, 2025

Board Chair

Date

District Clerk

Date