



Homer Community Consolidated School District 33C

Board of Education

Board Meeting Summary - September 29, 2026

*Christopher Trzeciak, President - Melissa Chandarana, Vice President - Aaron Wolf, Secretary
Elizabeth Hitzeman, Member - Deb Martin, Member - Josh Oster, Member - Lilly Miceli, Member*

Recognition of Visitors

Mrs. O'Connor expressed gratitude to Mrs. Schroeder for her enthusiasm for student craft projects, Mr. Kraatz for supporting their continuation, and Mr. Russ for assisting with finishing projects, display boards, and window installations. She shared that these craft projects give students a creative outlet and keep them visible and celebrated. She thanked all participating staff for helping students make a meaningful difference in their school and community.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of the consent agenda as presented
- Approval of the August 25, 2026 Regular Board meeting minutes and the August 25, 2026 Regular Meeting Closed Session Minutes (Goal 4)
- Treasurer's Report August 2026 (Goal 5)
- Invoices Payable September 2026 (Goal 5)

Resignations

Non-Certified

- 1) Caitlin Maze - Paraprofessional at Goodings Grove School - eff. 9/11/26
- 2) Jessica Pohl - Paraprofessional at Young School - eff. 8/31/26
- 3) Juan Rodriguez - Custodian at Homer Jr. High School - eff. 8/27/26
- 4) Itzel Servin - Paraprofessional at Hadley Middle School - eff. 9/28/26

Employment Recommendation(s)

Non-Certified

- 1) Raza Useini - Lunchroom Monitor at Goodings Grove School - eff. 9/23/26
- 2) David Helfert - Bus Driver at Transportation - eff. 9/30/26, dependent on successfully completing a criminal background check, the FMCSA background check, the bus driver physical examination, and obtaining the CDL and school bus permit for driving a school bus.
- 3) Robert Burbridge - Bus Driver at Transportation - eff. 9/30/26, dependent on successfully completing a criminal background check, the FMCSA background check, the bus driver physical examination, and obtaining the CDL and school bus permit for driving a school bus.
- 4) Rebecca Ristucci - Bus Driver at Transportation - eff. 9/30/26, dependent on successfully completing a criminal background check, the FMCSA background check, the bus driver physical examination, and obtaining the CDL and school bus permit for driving a school bus.
- 5) James Amedeo - Bus Driver at Transportation - eff. 9/30/26, dependent on successfully completing a criminal background check, the FMCSA background check, the bus driver

physical examination, and obtaining the CDL and school bus permit for driving a school bus.

6) Kyle Janssen - Maintenance/Grounds Substitute at all buildings - eff. 9/30/26

7) Allison Dick - Paraprofessional at Goodings Grove School - eff. 9/30/26

8) Andrew Meadows - Custodian at Homer Jr. High School - eff. 9/3/26

9) Rachel Hampton - Paraprofessional at Young School - eff. 9/30/26

10) Pam Pellicane - Lunchroom Monitor at Butler School - eff. 9/30/26

11) Michelle Mottola - Lunchroom Monitor at Butler School - eff. 9/30/26

12) Melesia Casiano - Nurse Aide at Goodings Grove and Young Schools - eff. 9/30/26

13) Brian Farrelly - Bus Driver at Transportation - eff. 9/30/26, dependent on successfully completing a criminal background check, the FMCSA background check, the bus driver physical examination, and obtaining the CDL and school bus permit for driving a school bus.

Extracurricular

1) Rebecca Esquivel - Girls Wrestling Coach - eff. immediately

2) 2026-2027 Clubs and Sponsors List Updated (attached) - eff. immediately

Policy 8:80 Gift to the District

Informational Reports

Homer Council Report

Co-Presidents Wendy Bruin and Stephanie Piper reported that teams are collaborating to navigate PLC and curriculum changes. They also noted that contract negotiations are progressing smoothly ahead of the next meeting.

Homer Support Staff Council

No report

Directors' Reports

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Russ' presentation is attached.

Special Services

Ms. Karalus' presentation is attached.

Transportation

Mr. Zuraes' presentation is attached.

Assistant Superintendents' Reports

Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Figurell's presentation is attached.

Human Resources

Dr. Portwood's presentation is attached.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Schoppe's report is attached.

Board Report

Ms. Chandaranda and Dr. Oster met with Representatives Jackson and Casten, as well as both state senators, during advocacy training on Capitol Hill. They highlighted the district's special education funding gap, where federal IDEA funds cover only \$1 million of a \$7 million requirement. Lawmakers shared updates on the "IDEA 2040" initiative, which aims to gradually raise federal funding to 40% by 2040, and stressed that emails, calls, and letters from the community are essential to moving this forward.

Old Business: Informational

- Quest Lunch Procedure
- Update on building plans for additions to Goodings Grove School and Butler Schools

New Business: Informational

- Policy update/review (1st read), 6:235

Approved New Business

- Approved the FY27 Budget
- Approved the 2026 EIS Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report
- Approved the 2026-2027 Open Meeting Act, Section 7.3 report
- Updated Custodians job description
- Approved Policy Update/Review (second read and adoption), 2:30, 3:40, 3:50, 3:60, 3:70, 4:120, 4:175, 5:110, 5:140, 5:185, 7:30, 7:80, 7:345, 8:100, 2:70-E, 2:220-E1, 2:220-E3, 2:220-E5, 2:220-E8. PRESS Plus Update (Issue 122)
- Approved that Christine Kosmowski, current dispatcher, be placed on the wage matrix in the Support Staff contract in the DSECR lane, step 11 (\$28.39), September 30, 2026
- Approved the Resolution to Effect Interfund Transfer from Operations and Maintenance Fund to Debt Service Fund in the amount of \$1,138,375
- Authorized repairs to the storm sewers at the Jr. High and a contract for road salt in the estimated total amount of \$66,884.50
- Approved the notice of retirement for the following individuals:
 - Susan Fink - Math Interventionist and 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher at Homer Jr. High School, effective at the end of the 2030-2031 school year, subject to compliance with the applicable requirements of TRS and the District's collective bargaining agreement.
- Approved Homer CCSD 33C FY 2027 Consolidated Plan

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, at 7:00 p.m.