

BOONE COUNTY DISTRICT No. 17
(aka ST. EDWARD PUBLIC SCHOOL)
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING
St. Edward School Science Room – St. Edward, Nebraska
Monday, September 8, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

The St. Edward Public School Board of Education conducted a budget hearing with the regular September meeting immediately following the budget hearing, on Monday, September 8, 2025 at the schoolhouse. Advance notice of the meetings was published in The Albion News & Boone County Tribune on August 27, 2025, and posted in the school's main office along with the agenda for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget. The budget details were available at the office of the Superintendent during regular business hours.

1. Opening Procedures:

- a. The budget hearing was called to order by President Roberts at 6:40 p.m. with members Merrell, Reardon, Cumming and Cruise, present. Also in attendance were Steve Osborn, Lindsay Tenski and Tyler Gray
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
Motion made by Roberts seconded by Cumming to excuse Christman from the Budget Hearing.
Roll call vote: Reardon-Yea, Roberts-Yea, Cruise-Yea, Merrell- Yea, Cumming- Yea:
Motion carried 5-0.
- a. President Roberts stated the hearing will follow the Open Meetings Act, which is located in the meeting room.
- b. The purpose of hearing was to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget and to consider amendments relative thereto.
- c. Mr. Osborn presented the proposed budget to the board of education and patrons. The proposed operating budget sets the General Fund at \$5,299,606.00, Depreciation Fund at \$65,652.00, Activity Fund at \$274,353.00, School Nutrition Fund at \$243,000.00, and the Special Building Fund at \$358,124.00. Of these funds, the two that are supported by tax asking requests are the General Fund and the Special Building Fund. This is an increase in the General Fund operating budget of 4.0%. The main increase in General Fund expenditures is for increase in salaries and benefits, curriculum adoption, vehicle acquisition, and cost to maintain the building. The increase in the operating budget of Special Building Fund of 16.0% is due to the purchase and installation of our new preschool playground equipment. The board is committed to the effort maintaining the Special Building Fund in preparation for necessary site improvements such as our main entry door replacement project last year as well as the possibility of needing to address unexpected expenses. There will be no action on the budget at this meeting as we will be attending the Joint Public Hearing on September 22, 2025 at the Boone County Court House. The tax asking for the General Fund will be set at \$3,345,402.00. The tax asking for the Special Building Fund will be set at \$212,212.00 for a total asking of \$3,466,614.00. This sets the levy rate at 0.541673. This is down from 0.563125 last year. There will be a special meeting for the approval of the budget to be scheduled following the joint hearing process.
- d. The budget hearing adjourned at 6:54 p.m. by executive order.

2. Opening Procedures - Regular Meeting

- a. The meeting was called to order by President Roberts at 6:54 p.m. with members Merrell, Reardon, Cumming and Cruise, present. Also in attendance were Steve Osborn, Lindsay Tenski, and Tyler Gray
- b. Open Meeting Law Posted
- c. Pledge of Allegiance
Motion made by Roberts seconded by Cumming to excuse Christman from the board meeting.
Roll call vote: Reardon-Yea, Roberts-Yea, Cruise-Yea, Merrell- Yea, Cumming- Yea:
Motion carried 5-0.
- a. President Roberts set the next board meetings, hearings: date and times:
 1. Joint Public Hearing - September 22, 2025. Boone County Court House – 6:00 p.m.
 2. Special meeting to approve the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year September 23, 6:00 p.m.
 3. Regular Monthly Meeting date: October 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Possible work session may be scheduled prior to the regular October meeting

2. Visitor/Patron recognition: Visitor/Patron recognition – Speaker request:

- a. none

3. Reports

a. Mr. Gray's Activity Director Report

- Fall Sports Games Have Started
 - High School Football next game is Friday vs. Winside (@Newman Grove)
 - JV Football Tonight against Central Valley in Wolbach High School Volleyball next game is Tuesday at St. Edward against Burwell and Archangels Catholic
 - JH/HS Cross Country next meet is at Laurel on Thursday, September 11th.
 - JH Football played today at Howells-Dodge and will play again September 15th @ Newman Grove against Humphrey-Lindsay.
 - JH Volleyball started their season against Fullerton today in St. Edward-Next game is at Immanuel Lutheran-Columbus
- FFA goes to Husker Harvest Days tomorrow, September 9th, and to Area 4 Range Judging on September 10th. Ag Olympics is scheduled for September 18th. FFA-Feed the Farmer is scheduled for September 25th.
- FCCLA Leadership Conference is scheduled for September 17th.
- Co-op Renewal for Football:
 - November 1, 2025 – Deadline to submit application for a cooperative sponsorship in football for the 2026 and 2027 seasons.

b. Mrs. Tenski's Principal Report

- Our Back-to-School Bash and Open House was held on August 12, 2025. Our attendance for the sloppy joe feed was down compared to years past.
- Homecoming Week 2025 was held September 2-5, 2025. Everyone enjoyed the week of festivities and concluded with the Homecoming dance on Friday, September 5th.
- The St. Edward FFA Chapter is set to attend Husker Harvest Days on September 9, 2025. Mrs. Meyer has 41 students planning to attend.
- Fall MAPS testing will begin on September 9th and will conclude prior to Parent/Teacher conferences.
- Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on September 25, 2025.

c. Faculty/Student Recognition

- Thank you to everyone who attended the Back-to-School Bash and Open House!
- Thank you to the newly formed PTO for treats and cards for the staff to help kick-off the school year
- 2025 Homecoming Royalty
 - Queen - Josie Sock, King - Ryan Cumming
 - Senior Attendants: Lakin Prososki, Macy Reardon, Dennis Gallardo Bernal, Cole Jochem
 - Junior Attendants: Kaylee Applegarth, Ryder Beekman
 - Sophomore Attendants: Joselyn Gulbrandson, Bently Roan
 - Freshman Attendance: Shinel Justus, Riley Steensnes
 - Crown Bearers: Emily Olson, Aaron Vargas

d. Mr. Osborn's Report

Elementary News

- It has been a great start to the school year and hard to believe we are in our 5th week of teaching and learning. The staff has settled in and working well together in a positive learning environment.
- On September 11th, Ella Heath has worked with the Public Library and our elementary students to take part in a planetarium experience at the Community Building.
- The 4-5-6 grade students will be traveling to Lincoln on September 16th to tour the State Capital and visit Morrill Hall/University of Nebraska State Museum.
- We are providing more inservice opportunities for our paraeducators this year as part of our transition to a more inclusive education process for our resource students where they spend more time learning with peers and less time in pullout situations.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on September 25th from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a teacher work session on the 26th.

Project Updates

- As far as I know, we are still on track for a Mid-September install date for our PK playground equipment.
- The main west entry is complete and working great!

Staffing

- I have advertised for the position of vocal/instrumental music teacher effective as early as January 5, 2026 to allow a possible opportunity for a December college graduate or a qualified candidate moving into the area.

Other Information:

- Our second round of 80-day vehicle inspections will begin the week of October 6th.
- The first round of safety drills was successfully completed for PK-12 students to begin the school year: monthly fire drill, tornado drill, lockdown drill and bus evacuation drills

Upcoming Meeting and Conferences:

- The State Education Conference will be held at the CHI Health Center in Omaha and is scheduled for November 19-21, 2025. Registration opens September 10th. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending. Hotel reservations open September 24th and will fill quickly. At this point in time, I am planning to attend.
- I am scheduled to attend the Annual NCSA School Law Fall Update, September 17, 2025, in Lincoln.
- I am also scheduled to attend the Annual Labor Relations Conference, October 1-2, 2025, Lincoln.

Board Committee Reports

- We held a Finance Committee meeting on August 19th to discuss the 2024-2025 budget process and tax asking options in preparation for the Budget Hearing.

e. Consent Agenda

- August 11, 2025 regular meeting minutes
- Financial Report
- Bills and Claims payment for September 2025.

It was moved by Roberts and seconded by Cruise to approve the consent agenda.

Roll call vote: Reardon-Yea, Roberts-Yea, Cruise-Yea, Merrell- Yea, Cumming- Yea:

Motion carried 5-0.

3. Discussion items

None

4. Action Items

a. Discussion with action to approve a resolution to increase to the school district's property tax request authority by an additional seven (7) percent, or other maximum amount as permitted by law, above the base growth percentage
Motion by Roberts and seconded by Reardon to approve a resolution to increase to the school district's property tax request authority by an additional seven (7) percent, or other maximum amount as permitted by law, above the base growth percentage

Roll call vote: Reardon-Yea, Roberts-Yea, Cruise-Yea, Merrell- Yea, Cumming – Yea.

Motion carried 5-0

b. Discussion with action to adopt a resolution to set forth the maximum capacity limits for the 2026-2027 school year for the purpose of option enrollment Policy 5006 adopt a resolution to set forth the maximum capacity limits for the 2026-2027 school year for the purpose of option enrollment Policy 5006

Motion by Cumming and seconded by Roberts to adopt a resolution to set forth the maximum capacity limits for the 2026-2027 school year for the purpose of option enrollment Policy 5006 adopt a resolution to set forth the maximum capacity limits for the 2026-2027 school year for the purpose of option enrollment Policy 5006

Roll call vote: Reardon-Yea, Roberts-Yea, Cruise-Yea, Merrell- Yea, Cumming-Yea.

Motion carried 5-0

c. Discussion with action to approve the lease of a new 14 passenger minibus

Motion by Roberts and seconded by Reardon to approve a three-year lease of a new 14 passenger minibus

Roll call vote: Reardon-Yea, Roberts-Yea, Cruise-Yea, Merrell- Yea, Cumming-Yea.

Motion carried 5-0

d. Discussion with action to adopt changes to Policy 3132 - Internal Controls

Motion by Cumming and seconded by Reardon to adopt changes to Policy 3132 - Internal Controls

Roll call vote: Reardon-Yea, Roberts-Yea, Cruise-Yea, Merrell- Yea, Cumming-Yea.

Motion carried 5-0

5. The meeting was adjourned by Executive Authority at 7:35 p.m.

Sherri Cruise, Secretary/Treasurer