

**Minutes of the Board of Education of the
Oelrichs School District 23-3
Regular Board Meeting
November 18, 2025**

Call to Order

The Board of Education of the Oelrichs School District 23-3 met in regular session on November 18, 2025, in the High School. The meeting was called to order by John Cope, Board President, at 5:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Members Present: John Cope, Katie Merdanian, Dave Osmotherly, Marty Schommer, and Lance Thustos arrived at 5:43 pm.

Administration Present: Dr. Mitchell Stone, Principal Peterson, and Business Manager Sword.

MOTION by Merdanian, second Schommer, to approve October 21, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

MOTION by Osmotherly, second Schommer, to approve the proposed agenda. Motion carried.

**All actions recorded in these minutes were by unanimous vote unless otherwise noted.*

Public Participation – no participation.

Old Business

High School Construction – Conference Call:

Mike Hickey and Kyle Ewing joined the meeting via zoom. Ewing gave an overview of the mediation process, objectives, and expectations.

Modular: Stone informed the board that the modular is scheduled to be moved out this week. Maintenance staff will secure the area with snow fence.

MOTION by Thustos, second Merdanian to approve Stone to seek a bid to remove the concrete; cap off the water and sewer; and supply, compress and grade the dirt work at the modular site, not to exceed \$20,000. Motion carried.

Administration Reports: Stone informed the board that Federal Programs including Impact Aid are behind due to the government shutdown. He has received information regarding the splitting of programs from Department of Education to Labor, Interior, or Health. This could potentially influence Impact Aid.

Girls and Boys Basketball season will be starting in the next weeks. There has been a lot of interest from our students, and we could potentially have JV teams this year.

The Thanksgiving Community Dinner is scheduled for Thursday with delivery beginning at 10:30.

Peterson acknowledged the students' hard work at the Veterans Day performance. The Christmas Program is scheduled for December 10. She has received donations to assist in purchasing gift bags for the students. Vice Principal Gillispie has donated turkey dinners to 14 families.

Sword informed the board that the notice of vacancy on the school board will be published in the newspaper between December 15 and the 30.

Financials: MOTION by Osmotherly, second Merdanian, to accept the unaudited financial reports and pay all invoiced claims. Motion carried.

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	<u>Beginning</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Plus</u> <u>Receipts</u>	<u>transfer</u>	<u>Less</u> <u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Ending</u> <u>Balance</u>
General Fund	122,625.84	117,335.63	2,594.75	235,972.73	6,583.49
Capital Outlay	386,387.54	6,304.89	(2,594.75)	43,116.55	346,981.13
Special Education	107,736.52	8,179.65		20,899.70	95,016.47
Impact Aid	8,944,940.78	25,080.88			8,970,021.66
Food Service	22,776.18	14,470.25		21,917.52	15,328.91
Custodial Balance	15,820.15	191.69			16,011.84

Snow Removal Bids: No bids were received. Tabled for December meeting and will publish the invitation to bid for another two weeks. Discussion about the benefits of the school district owning a skid steer.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Schommer to approve \$35,000 for the purchase of a skid steer with tire chains and a blade. Motion carried

Christmas

MOTION by Merdanian, second Osmotherly to approve the bid from Triple 7 Skillet & Spirits for the School Christmas Party scheduled for December 12. Cope abstained. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Schommer to approve \$350 Christmas Bonus to teachers, hourly staff, and administration including contracted employees. Staff working less than full time will receive a bonus based on the percentage of work. To meet teacher compensation accountability for FY26, teacher salary contracts will increase \$800 (or percentage of work effort) effective January 2026. Cope and Merdanian abstained due to conflict. Motion carried.

Personal

MOTION by Schommer, second Merdanian to approve the employment agreement with Abbey Ries for the remaining 2025-2026 school term for \$34,344. Motion carried

MOTION by Merdanian, second Tlustos to approve the custodial hiring agreement with Jerome Scabby Face for \$16 per hour. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Osmotherly to increase Denise Drake hourly rate to \$18 effective November 3, 2025. Motion carried.

MOTION by Merdanian, second Osmotherly to declare Clayton Hamilton's failure to report to work as scheduled as job abandonment. Motion carried.

MOTION by Osmotherly, second Tlustos to approve a hiring agreement with Emmanuel Black Bear prorated per the negotiated agreement. Motion carried.

Executive Session

MOTION by Tlustos, second by Osmotherly, to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2.1 Employee matters. The board went into executive session at 7:03pm and resumed open meeting status at 7:07pm. Not action was taken.

Adjournment

MOTION by Tlustos, second Schommer to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM. Motion carried.

Attested to by CEO/Superintendent Stone.

Pursuant to SDCL 17-2-28 the approximate cost of publishing this legal notice is \$