

**Minutes of the Board of Education of the
Oelrichs School District 23-3
Regular Board Meeting
April 21, 2026**

Call to Order

The Board of Education of the Oelrichs School District 23-3 met in regular session on April 21, 2026, 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 Tlustos.

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

MOTION by Merdanian, second Tlustos, to approve March 24, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

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

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

Public Participation – No participation

High School Construction: Stone gave an update on the status of mediation.

Board Reports: Merdanian attended the BHSSC meeting. The board discussed the possibility of providing a bus route on US-385 N if there is any interest in the families requesting to attend Oelrichs School District. Stone will get more information for further discussion

Administrative Reports: Stone submitted the completed FY25 audit to the appropriate sites. South Dakota Legislative Audit confirmed they reviewed and accepted the audit. Stone gave recognition to the staff who sponsored prom and acknowledged their hard work to make it successful. National Honor Society will have an induction ceremony, adding four new members. They anticipate over 25 parents in attendance. Stone reviewed the scheduled activities to finish out the school year, noting graduation on May 9. Peterson informed the board that the ACT testing is done and they are currently doing the state testing.

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

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Plus</u>		<u>Less</u>	<u>Ending</u>
	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>transfer</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	286,492.97	69,824.80		194,385.54	161,932.23
Capital Outlay	283,954.18	4,788.30		1,093.03	287,649.45
Special Education	96,328.49	9,380.43		19,247.43	86,461.49
Impact Aid	9,713,407.19	973,472.27			10,686,879.46
Food Service	41,416.29	10,179.65		16,005.94	35,590.00
Custodial Balance	17,331.26	321.39			17,652.65

SD High School Athletic Association Resolution FY27: MOTION by Schommer, second Merdanian to authorize membership in the South Dakota High School Activities Association beginning July 1, 2026, and ends June 30, 2027. Motion carried.

Associated School Boards Workers Compensation Renewal and Agreement: MOTION by Merdanian, second Tlustos to adopt, approve, and ratify the ASB Workers' Compensation Trust Fund Participation Agreement. Motion carried.

Contracts: MOTION by Schommer, second Tlustos, to approve the Application for Rental of School Facility to the Oelrichs History Conference, all fees being waived. Merdanian abstained. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Schommer to approve the Speech-Language Pathology Service Agreement with Thrive Therapy Collective for school year 2026-2027. Motion carried.

MOTION by Merdanian, second Tlustos, to approve the Agreement with Red Stone Strategic Solutions, to provide educational support services for school year 2026-2027. Motion carried

MOTION by Tlustos, second Merdanian to approve the 2026-2027 Employment Agreement with Red Stone Strategic Solutions and principal positions to Darla Peterson and Robin Gillespie for school year 2026-2027. Motion carried.

MOTION by Osmotherly, second Schommer to approve the Employment Agreement with Red Stone Strategic Solutions and Stacy Cope, certified teacher, for school year 2026-2027. Cope abstained. Motion carried.

Negotiations: MOTION by Merdanian, second Schommer to approve the 2026-2027 Negotiated Agreement. Motion carried.

Personnel: MOTION by Merdanian, second Osmotherly to approve the pay increase of .50 to Latoya Gonzalez effective April 21, 2026. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Tlustos to accept Sarah Deckers resignation effective June 30, 2026. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Schommer to approve paying Shayna Otteson \$15.60 for temporary employment effective April 14 through June 30, 2026, or until an Administrative Assistant is hired at the high school. Motion carried.

MOTION by Merdanian, second Tlustos to approve the hiring agreements of the following employees: Koby Carson 47,754; Shelby Davis 53,839; Charlee Ebmeier 56,603; Ralph Knickrehm (80%) 43,897; Cheryl Lamont 59,817; Rachel Nilles 54,907; Ruth Nixon 53,522; Abbey Ries 51,359; Tara Schuhmacher 60,887; Jennifer Schumacher 52,906; Befekadu Tewahade 66,549; Ken Updike (14%) 11,190; James Willmas 51,348; Nancy Fleming 59,578; Mato Hinton 44,290; Valerie Sword 79,748. Motion carried

MOTION by Merdanian to hire Mike Carson as Head Custodian for \$20 an hour. The Chair declared the motion failed for lack of a second.

School Housing: MOTION by Osmotherly, second Schommer to offer \$220,000 to purchase the land of Cam Seger located at 211 W 8th Street in Oelrichs SD. All closing costs covered by the school district. Motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION by Schommer, second Tlustos, to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 PM. Motion carried.

Attested to by CEO/Superintendent Stone.

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