

**Minutes of the Board of Education of the
Oelrichs School District 23-3
Regular Board Meeting
August 18, 2026**

Call to Order

The Board of Education of the Oelrichs School District 23-3 met in regular session on August 18, 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, Marty Schommer, and Lance Tlustos.

Members Absent: Dave Osmotherly

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

MOTION by Schommer, second Merdanian, to approve July 21, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Schommer, to approve the amended agenda, adding 3.1 Bus MOU.

Motion carried.

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

Public Participation – no participation.

OST Tribal Agency

Dana Brave Eagle provided in-service training for the teachers during the day. She was unable to attend the board meeting.

Loneman lost its bus fleet due to a hailstorm. The Tribal Education Committee asked the district to coordinate and provide one (1) bus for three (3) weeks to be used by Loneman starting August 25th.

MOTION by Merdanian, second Schommer to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Temporary School Bus Loan Agreement with Loneman School for three (3) weeks. Motion carried.

Approve Paving Driveway Bid

The bids for the driveway paving project were presented by Jason L Hinds, Project Engineer at FMG Engineering.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Merdanian to approve the driveway paving project to Western Construction for \$284,445. To approve the Agreement Between Owner and Contractor for Construction Contract, the Notice to Proceed, and the Notice of Award. Motion carried.

Old Business

High School Construction Stone informed the board that the contractor and some of the subcontractors have completed the onsite visit. We should receive something within the next few weeks to move forward with the mediation process.

School Housing The board has requested BAM Property Solutions give an overview for the plan for remodeling the superintendent house to two apartments.

Bus Route John Cope gave a presentation to the Hot Springs School Board on August 10, 2026, requesting a formal motion to allow Oelrichs School District to cross district boundaries. On August 17, 2026, the Hot Springs School Board adopted resolution no. FY27-05 authorizing Oelrichs School District to operate within the boundaries of Hot Springs School District to establish a pick-up stop at Old Highway 79 and West Oral Road effective August 20, 2026, through the end of the school year.

Board Reports: Merdanian reported on the BHSSC meeting.

Administration Reports:

Stone informed the board that the tribe granted the IPP's/exemption for the impact aid application. Dana Brave Eagle provided great support to make the processes smooth.

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Stone provided options for a school marquee. He will request a quote from Rosenbaum's Signs. Gillespie and Peterson reported the activities for the start of the school year.

Financials

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

	<u>Beginning</u> <u>Balance</u>	<u>Plus</u> <u>Receipts</u>	<u>Transfer/Adjust</u>	<u>Less</u> <u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Ending</u> <u>Balance</u>
General Fund	37,550.09	59,795	400,000/3,511.74	218,285.52	282,571.31
Capital Outlay	384,382.58		91.50	920.02	383,557.06
Special Education	106,632.84	2,067	13,638.33	948.49	121,389.68
Impact Aid	10,818,271.89	30,588.44	-400,000		10,448,860.33
Food Service	37,840.68		1,192.46	500	39,533.14
Custodial Balance:	15,734.87				15,734.87

MOTION by Schommer, second Tlustos to approve the amended FY26 Budget. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Merdanian to approve the end of the year financial statements and annual report. Motion carried.

Setting of Food Services Prices

MOTION by Merdanian, second Schommer to approve the meal prices: All grade lunches: \$5.34; Adult lunches \$5.36; All grade breakfast \$2.54; Adult Breakfast \$3.05; Milk \$.35. Motion carried

Contracts

MOTION by Tlustos, second Merdanian to approve the agreement with ELO to audit FY2026 fiscal reports. Motion carried.

Personal

MOTION by Merdanian, second Tlustos to approve the employment agreement with Cody He Crow, music teacher, for \$46,201 for school year 2026-2027. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Merdanian to approve the hiring agreement with Mindi Quicke, assistant cook, at \$17.00 per hour. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Merdanian to approve the extra duty agreement with Shelby Davis, Varsity Head Volleyball Coach, for school year 2026-2027, pay \$3,098. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Merdanian to approve the extra duty agreement with Buff Tewahade, yearbook advisory, pay \$1,525 for school year 2026-2027. Motion carried

MOTION by Schommer, second Tlustos to extend the hiring agreement with Shayna Otteson for the school year 2026-2027. Motion carried.

MOTION by Merdanian, second Tlustos to approve the hiring agreement with Morgan Schommer, sub/para, at \$17.00 per hour. Schommer abstained due to conflict. Motion carried.

MOTION by Merdanian, second Tlustos to approve a temporary position for school year 2026-2027 to Raymond Ringstmeyer for 57% of teacher hire agreement (lane 1, 5 years) \$28,329 to perform duties of Technology Support; ISS/Student Supervision; and Substitute. Motion carried.

Open Enrollment

MOTION by Schommer, second Merdanian to approve enrollment for students 1-6 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Schommer to approve enrollment for student 8 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Merdanian, second Schommer to decline enrollment for students 9-11 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Merdanian to approve enrollment for student 12 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Merdanian to decline enrollment for students 13-15 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Merdanian to approve enrollment for students 16-17 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Merdanian, second Tlustos to decline enrollment for student 18 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Schommer to approve enrollment for students 19-23 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Merdanian to decline enrollment for student 25 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Merdanian to approve enrollment for student 26 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Tlustos to decline enrollment for student 27 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Merdanian to approve enrollment for students 28-30 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Merdanian to decline enrollment for students 31-33 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Merdanian to approve enrollment for student 34 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Merdanian, second Tlustos to decline enrollment for student 36 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Schommer to approve enrollment for students 37-38 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Merdanian to decline enrollment for student 40 as presented by Principal Peterson. Motion carried.

MOTION by Schommer, second Tlustos to authorize Dr. Stone to tentatively approve open enrollment applications, subject to later board ratification. Motion carried.

Attendance Incentives

MOTION by Schommer, second Tlustos to approve the attendance incentive program to fund \$800 for the elementary school and \$800 for the middle/high school each semester (December and May).

Student names will be placed in a drawing based on semester attendance; the winners will receive a certificate to spend at Home Haven in Chadron. Motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION by Tlustos, second Merdanian, to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 PM. Motion carried.

Attested to by CEO/Superintendent Stone.

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