

**Minutes of the Board of Education of the  
Oelrichs School District 23-3  
Regular Board Meeting  
May 19, 2025**

**Call to Order**

The Board of Education of the Oelrichs School District 23-3 met in regular session on May 19, 2025, in the High School Science Room. 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, and Lance Tlustos.

Members Absent: Marty Schommer

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

MOTION by Osmotherly, second Tlustos to approve April 22, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Osmotherly to approve the 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** Stone gave an update that the construction cost adjusters should have their report completed soon.

Stone presented a quote from Golden West for security cameras to cover the school campus. More information is needed before a decision can be made.

**Board Reports** Merdanian presented that the Community that Cares program lost its funding and will be exploring various avenues to determine its future. They will be meeting again in June.

**Administration Reports** Stone informed the board that he and Peterson have been working on closing out the 1003 grants for school year 2024-2025. He is optimistic that the 1003 grant funding should continue into school year 2025-2026.

Stone shared information about the end of the year ceremonies and the successful completion of the school year. He thanked the board for their continued support to the staff at the staff appreciation luncheon. Staff were very thankful for their recognition.

Administration will be working on the end of the year reports that are due June 13. In addition to the end of the year, the state finance department is conducting fiscal monitoring on several of the federal education programs that the district receives funds. Sword and Stone will be submitting that documentation by the deadline of June 9.

Peterson shared that today was the first day of the summer enrichment and credit recovery. She has been working on teacher schedules for 2025-2026 school year and end of year reports.

Stone shared his concerns regarding transporting students next year. The district is in need of drivers with passenger CDL's. As an alternative to the need for CDL drivers, the district could provide transportation with 14 passenger buses, that do not require drivers to possess a CDL. He recommended that the district start looking to purchase an additional 14 passenger bus. Merdanian expressed the need to advertise for drivers with a CDL.

MOTION by Osmotherly, second Tlustos approve spending up to \$105,000 for a 14-passenger bus for school year 2025-2026. Merdanian opposed. Motion carried.

**Financials**

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

MOTION by Tlustos, second Merdanian to approve the transfer of \$35,000 from impact aid to food service. Motion carried.

May 19, 2025

	<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	471,386.18	120,397.85		208,635.32	383,148.71
Capital Outlay	457,678.61	7,256.96		66,080.17	398,855.40
Special Education	63,935.44	12,991.91		22,544.84	54,382.51
Impact Aid	7,646,742.28	1,070,887.26			8,717,629.54
Food Service	568.65	11,033.76		16,285.57	(4,683.16)
Custodial Balance:	19,689.96			1,057.50	18,632.46

### **Certificate of Election:**

MOTION by Tlustos, second Merdanian to accept the certificate of election, Marty Schommer duly nominated and having no opposition at the School Board Election is declared elected to the School Board of Oelrichs School District for the term of three years, beginning July 1, 2025. Motion carried.

MOTION by Osmotherly, second Tlustos to accept the certificate of election, Katie Merdanian duly nominated and having no opposition at the School Board Election is declared elected to the School Board of Oelrichs School District for the term of three years, beginning July 1, 2025. Merdanian abstained. Motion carried.

### **2025-2026 Preliminary Budget**

#### **2025-2026 School Calendar**

MOTION by Osmotherly, second Merdanian to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar as presented by Peterson. Motion carried.

### **Personnel**

MOTION by Osmotherly, second Tlustos to approve the district contribution of \$300 per month towards family insurance to qualifying staff. Motion carried.

MOTION by Tlustos, second Osmotherly to approve the district to pay the administrative fee for any staff contributing to the Health Savings Account. Motion carried.

MOTION by Merdanian, second Tlustos to accept the resignation of Sara Braun effective May 2, 2025. Motion carried.

MOTION by Osmotherly, second Tlustos to accept the resignation of Terri Lemmon effective June 13, 2025. Motion carried

MOTION by Tlustos, second Osmotherly to approve the employment agreement with Ruth Nixon for \$51,163 for school year 2025-2026. Motion carried.

MOTION by Osmotherly, second Merdanian to approve the employment agreement with Nancy Fleming for \$57,043 for school year 2025-2026. Motion carried

MOTION by Tlustos, second Osmotherly to approve the employment agreement with Valerie Sword for \$77,426 for school year 2025-2026. Motion carried

MOTION by Osmotherly, second Merdanian to approve Leslie Cope as Transportation Director for \$731.50 per month, including insurance, for school year 2025-2026. Motion carried

MOTION by Osmotherly, second Tlustos to approve 4.5% increase for all hourly staff to be effective July 1, 2025. Motion carried.

Hourly staff rates: Malachiah Fleming \$20.37; Russ Hines \$17.50; Courtney Malone \$17.50; Nancy Laber \$19.56; Lee Linehan \$21; Roy Merdanian \$22.90; Tracey Osmotherly \$20.34; Carol Danks \$16.30; Shayna Otteson \$16.30; William Updike \$16.30; Ellen White \$17.76.

### **Negotiations**

MOTION by Merdanian, second Osmotherly to approve the 2025-2026 Negotiated Agreement. Motion carried.

Teacher salaries: Stacy Cope 58,314; Shelby Davis 51,471; Sarah Decker 55,442; Charlee Ebmeier 54,154; Ralph Knickrehm 41,979; Cheryl Lamont 57,275; Jennifer Schumacher 50,565; Rachel Nilles 52,508; Tara Schuhmacher 58,314; Befekadu Tewahade 63,811; James Willmus 48,052

**Adjournment**

MOTION by Tlustos, second Osmotherly to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM. Motion carried.

*Attested to by CEO/Superintendent Stone.*

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