

# BRUNING-DAVENPORT USD

February 2026

**Kelly Lampe, Superintendent**  
**Melinda Kerwood, Principal**  
**106 N. Juniper Ave.**  
**Davenport, NE 68336**  
**402-364-2225**

**Ruth Kowalski, Principal**  
**340 Carroll St.**  
**Bruning, NE 68322**  
**402-353-4685**

## ***BOLTS: "Building Outstanding Leaders for Tomorrow's Society"***

### **FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. Kel Lampe**

## **Bruning-Davenport School News JANUARY 2026**

### **Celebrations – February Birthdays**

Michelle - Shannon - Mark - Larae

### **January Unified Board Meeting**

We held two individual board meetings for each village to elect officers for 26-27.

Appointed Aaron Oltmans to the Davenport Board to replace Jamie Miller.

Appointed Tony Norder to the Bruning Board to replace Sheri Norder.

The Daycare reported a positive balance for the year.

Discussed negotiations and upcoming discussions with the Teachers.

Approved new phone system, to be installed this summer.

Approved resignation of Jill Catlett, effective at the end of the school year.

Approved Reagan Alfs as a sub.

### **Transportation Report**

Continuing to have bus repair problems.

The new 77 passenger bus and the short 13 passenger bus are almost ready to be put in our rotation.

### **Buildings and Grounds Report**

President Baysinger from the Buildings and Grounds Committee reported that BVH Architects of Lincoln, Nebraska is doing a Feasibility Study of the Shickley School Building.

The committees are expected to meet when the results of the Feasibility Study are reported.

### **News**

The coach bus we leased is working well.

We are bringing on board a part time SPED teacher for the Davenport Building to serve on a virtual (zoom) basis. This will take some of the teaching load off of Larae's plate. This will also help with paperwork which is substantial in the SPED world. Her name is Alison McCall.

The new copy machines are installed.

The new card key entries are almost completed

**Help Wanted:**  
High School Math.  
Middle School Social Studies

<b>Financials: Ending 12-31-25</b>	<b>25-26</b>	<b>24-25</b>	<b>23-24</b>
Budget	6,136,594	5,962,246	5,387,784
YTD expenditures	1,832,000	1,734,000	1,485,000
Last month	456,000	416,000	358,000
% Budget remaining (8 months)	70.1%	67.8%	70.3%
Davenport Building Fund	485,000		
Bruning Building Fund	338,000		
Depreciation Fund	1,091,000		
Davenport Activity Fund	217,000		
Bruning Activity Fund	242,000		
Nutrition Fund	246,000		
(Fiscal year Sept 1 – Aug 31)			

### **Committee's: Next Meeting**

Americanism	Sarah Tony Baxter Aaron Jill C Dan	Yearly
BDEA	Cammie Beth D Ali Lichelle	As needed
BDS Coop	Baxter Tony Trey	Quarterly
Calendar	Jill C Jill R Daina Ali	As needed
Comm Outreach	Daina Mark Maggie Val Jill R	At Inservice
Daycare	Adam Heather Sarah K Lichelle Ciara Kathy Kel	Monthly
Discipline	Daina Cammie Ali Maggie Morgan Dan	Annually
Build/Grounds	Jerry B Ryne Ryan Brad	Annually
Frontline		Weekly
Grant		As Needed
ILCD	Melinda Joy Larae Ali	At Inservice
MTSS	Ruth Morgan Cammie Melinda Ali Daina Brooke Jen	As needed
NCIS	Negotiations/Calendar/Insurance/Schedule	Varies
Certified	Ali Logan Cammie Jen Jerry Sarah Ryan	As Needed
Classified	Erika DeEtta Barb W Jeff Lon Trey	As Needed
Safety	Ali Chris Marci Logan Leah Jen	At Inservice
Steering	Melinda Beth A Lichelle Jill Britany Rick Dan	Bi Monthly
Tech Website	Nate Beth D Tara Micah Wade Kent	At Inservice
Transportation	Jeff Lon Derek Trey Mike Robert	As needed
Wellness	Brooke Lori B Cammie Morgan Maggie	At Inservice

**Goal:**  
**To be the best small school**  
**in the state**



## **From the Principal's Desk**

As we wrap up January, we want to congratulate our Junior High Girls Basketball team on a great season filled with growth and teamwork. At the same time, we're excited to kick off the Junior High Boys Basketball season, which is just getting started. We wish our athletes the best as they continue to represent our school with pride both on and off the court.

We are also incredibly proud of the progress our students are making in the classroom. Teachers are seeing strong growth in daily learning, and this is being reflected in our district-wide assessments, including FastBridge and MAP. Students are working hard, setting goals, and showing improvement. Thank you to our families for supporting learning at home.

February will be a busy and exciting month at school! Students will participate in activities such as quiz bowl competitions, basketball games, a special visit and presentation from Miss Nebraska, and classroom Valentine's Day parties. With winter weather still upon us, we kindly remind families to ensure students are coming to school properly dressed for the cold, including coats, hats, gloves, and appropriate footwear.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we move into another great month of learning and activities!

Melinda Kerwood  
Principal, Davenport Building

Winter has finally arrived! January was quite a roller coaster for weather. Like the saying goes, "If you want to see all the seasons in a day, just come to Nebraska!" As we jump into February and the more consistent cold weather, please remind your students to wear warm coats and clothing. Hopefully, the spring weather will be back soon!

As I'm sure you are all aware, February is National Heart Month. While we know that this month is supposed to bring awareness to cardiovascular disease, we can also look at it from another standpoint. What if we focused on putting our "heart" into the things we are doing throughout the month of February? Throughout the school year, students work diligently to make their brains smarter, but if their heart is not in it, what kind of education are they truly getting? Aristotle said, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." As we make our way through these long winter months, let's remind ourselves and our children to put their hearts and their minds into the tasks at hand. We want to give the best education possible to our students, making sure they are not only learning for the mind, but also for their heart.

Mrs. Kowalski  
Principal, Bruning Building

## Counselor Corner

February 2<sup>nd</sup>-February 6<sup>th</sup> is National School Counselor Week. Each morning in the bulletin there will be morning announcements to celebrate NSCW. The messages will reflect the 2026 theme “School Counselors Amplify Student Success” from ASCA. This week will help to understand what school counselors do and why it matters for student success. School counselors work supports academic achievement, college and career readiness, and social/emotional development. I am proud to be the School Counselor to the wonderful Bruning-Davenport students!

Grades K-6 continue with Second Step lessons. We have started Unit 2 on Emotion Management. Please continue completing the Home Links with your child! They will be learning about: 1. Identifying and understanding their own and others' feelings. 2. Begin to take others' perspectives. 3. Show compassion for others. Empathy is a key ingredient in the development of prosocial behaviors and interpersonal problem-solving skills. It is necessary for social-emotional competence and contributes to academic success.

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade have created EducationQuest accounts so they are looking and different colleges and careers. We also take time to learn about different things that teenagers are dealing with including life skills, mental and physical health, social skills, and substance abuse through the digital platform Choices by Scholastic.

Juniors discussed their ASVAB scores and will have a Practice ACT in February. The Seniors are counting down the days I'm sure!

Thanks again for all that you do in supporting your child and teachers!!

Marci Reinsch

[mreinsch@bdstorm.org](mailto:mreinsch@bdstorm.org)

K-12 School Counselor



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Grade	Name		Date
PreK	Arno	Sell	1
9	Julian	Pena Lopez	2
2	Liam	Fieselman	3
10	Blake	Miller	5
K	Westlyn	Parks	5
	Michelle	Sybrant	6
10	Traevon	Houser	7
5	Kinsley	Galaway	7
	Shannon	Collier	8
PreK	Reva	Elting	8
5	Alicia	Fonseca	8
K	Ashton	Anderson	9
4	Leah	Kennel	11

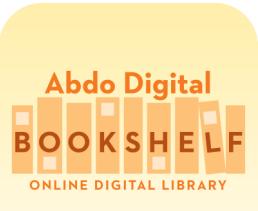


Grade	Name		Date
10	Harm	Lemke	11
7	Carter	Alonzo	12
2	Dean	Soltesz III	14
11	Brodrick	Dunn	17
5	Izelee	Ernst	18
6	Teri Jo	Hicks	18
	Mark	Rotter	26
7	Kaleb	Follmer	26
8	Eli	Galaway	26
	Larae	Buresh	27
11	LeTrell	Houser	27
7	Rustin	Ozenbaugh	27
6	Greysen	Strong	27

## What's Happening @ Your Libraries

This month's new resource we'd like to introduce you to is our Abdo eBook Shelf. The library owns all of these wonderful eBooks that students can read anytime, anywhere. No password is needed! Find the "library" tab under "students" on the district home page and click on the icon you see pictured with this article. We started our collection small, targeting the

2nd graders' favorite animals that they are doing "Animal Brown Bag" reports on during library class (and making their animal during art class). We will add more books as we see how well they are used. All of the ones on the book shelf are A.R testable if students wish :) Along with these eBooks, students also have access to over a hundred reference eBooks by clicking on the Abdo Reference icon. There are digital encyclopedias on sports, the military, gaming, and so much more! These are great for students of all ages! We encourage everyone to check out our new Abdo eBook resources!



## Digital Citizenship Tip

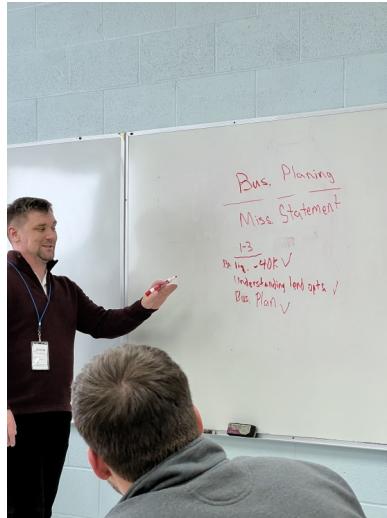
All of us would probably agree that there is A LOT going on in our world today. All of us would also probably agree that having electronic devices & Internet access nearly 24 hours a day as well as a radio & a television means we have access to knowing more about the world around us than ever before. It makes it harder to navigate through life. This article [Parent's Guide to Social Media & Digital Wellness](https://connectsafely.org/parents-guide-to-social-media-and-digital-wellness/) (<https://connectsafely.org/parents-guide-to-social-media-and-digital-wellness/>) has some tips that may be helpful to both adults and students alike.



## **Senior Seminar:**

Paul Downey, financial advisor and fiduciary from Kearney and advisor to the NE Department of Education on economic education, stopped by and provided a presentation on financial goal setting for BD seniors.

His message to the class was to not be afraid or intimidated by money. He encouraged students to work with local banks and advisors to be financially fluid with their finances during all stages in life. Mr. Downey provided suggestions for each student based on their future goals.



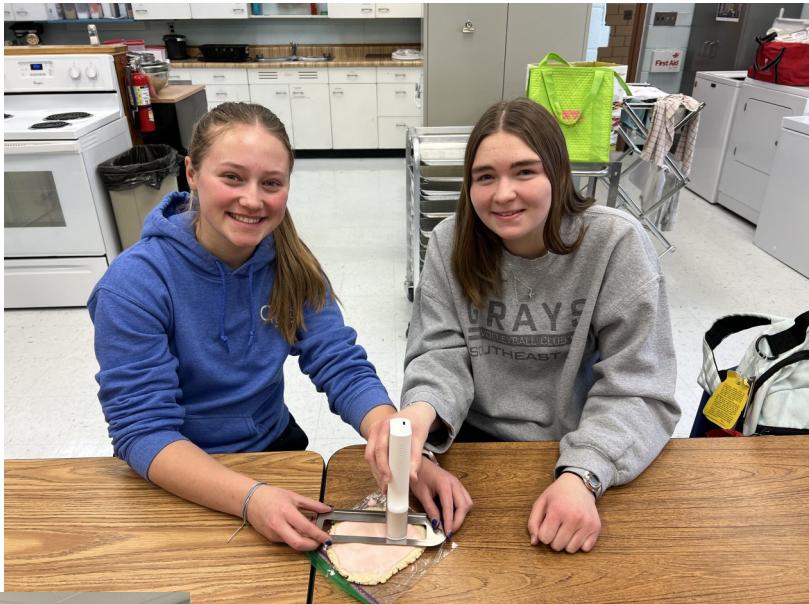
## A new year with a new set of projects in FCS.

### **Learning and Earning:**

The new freeze dryer (purchased from CYE funds) has been going non-stop with students working on everything from the popular "Skittles" to an organic spice rub.

The dehydrator is busy. Students are using the freeze-dried spice rub to create a new jerky flavor.

The new food printer is a culinary tool purchased using CTE funds this year. Students are using it to make custom printed cookies and other baked goods. Logos are not just for key chains any more.



**FFA Update:** This month, we started off strong, coming back from break and got to work studying and preparing for our first CDE competition on the 22nd. At CDEs, the floriculture team consisting of Lauryn Koch, Cynthia Ozenbaugh, and Kennedy Barney got fourth place, punching their ticket to state. Others competing in floriculture were Elizabeth Hinrichs, Natalie Meyer, Riggins Ozenbaugh, and Claire Lahners. The agriscience team, which consisted of Brayden Philippi, Aliviah Barney, Mikey Pena-Lopez, Rylan Trapp also earned a spot at the state convention. Other freshmen who competed include: Clarie Lahners, Addison Krehnke, Josie Stanek, and Kyler Koch. We had two Natural Resources teams and another floriculture team as well. The Natural Resources team of Tobby Voss, Collin Schoenholz, Blake Miller, and Colt Crockett also earned a trip to the Nebraska State Convention in March. We are ending the month with a trip to the bowling alley along with the FCCLA chapter to celebrate and gear up for February, a busy month with State Degree and Proficiency reviews, National FFA week, and more Career Development Events. **-Emma Hoins, BD FFA Report**



**The Student Council put on a winter dance, "Snow Ball," in January! They invited the Shickley High School students and their dates to attend. There were 45 attendees, making the dance a success! Amanda helped them stay energized by providing hot cocoa, cookies, punch, pretzels, and M&Ms! Thanks to all that attended and to Amanda!**



#### MEET A SENIOR

TAYLOR MCBRIDE is the son of Terry and Carmen McBride. He has 1 brother, Dakota, and 1 sister, Cora. Taylor is an active member of FFA. On the weekends, he goes to Broken Bow to help out ranchers and his future goal is to someday own his own ranch. His interests include riding horses and working. Taylor's favorite food is steak, his favorite TV show is SWAT, his favorite song is, "This Cowboy's Hat", by Chris LeDoux, and his favorite place to be along is with a horse herd. Taylor says, "The most influential person in my life is my brother because he has helped me so much".



# LUNCH MENU



# February 2026

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>Renz's Family Week</b>	2 Spaghetti Green Beans Garlic Bread Jell-O 	3 Flying Saucers Corn Dinner Roll Pineapple	4 Pizza Romaine Lettuce Strawberries Breadstick	5 Wings Peas Watermelon Cinnamon Breadstick	6 Chicken Strips Broccoli Banana Bread Slice	7
8	9 NO SCHOOL	10 Chicken Gravy over Mashed Potatoes Carrots Muffin	11 French Toast Bites Sausage Hash Brown Juice Cup	12 Tomato Soup Cheese Bread Carrots/Celery w/Peanut Butter	13 Goulash Peas Muffin 	14
15	16 Italian Dunkers California Blend Vegetables Mandarin Oranges	17 Polish Dog on a Bun Chips Baked Beans	18 Chili Soup Cinnamon Roll Carrots/Celery 	19 Ham and Egg Croissant Hash Browns Juice Cup	20 NO SCHOOL	21
22 <b>Ardissono's Family Week</b>	23 Chicken Leg Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Corn Cornbread Watermelon	24 Pizza Green Beans Garlic Bread Apple 1/2	25 Walking Tacos Peas Roll Oranges 	26 Crispitos Corn Grapes Roll	27 Chinese Chicken Rice Green Beans Strawberries	28
	Bruning: --F/V Bar --Salad Bar Available Daily	 = <b>NEBRASKA BEEF</b>	<b>GRAB AND GO BREAKFAST SERVED DAILY</b> Milk served with ALL Meals	<b>*Menu Subject to Change*</b> <b>*Second Entrée – \$1.00 *</b> <b>EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER</b>	Davenport: --F/V Bar Daily --Chef Salad Meal Option for 5-8th & Adults	

## BRUNING-DAVENPORT USD - ACTIVITY CALENDAR

# FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 CC JH Vocal/Band  HS G/B BB @ Osceola 6:7:30 JV TBA	3	4 Elementary Quiz Bowl Thayer Central ESU 5 Invitational @ Hebron Catholic Church 1PM  FFA St Degree Review & Dist. Proficiency Review	5	6 HS G/B BB Shelby-RC @ Dav 6:7:30 JV TBA	7 CRC Honor Band Selection  Aurora Speech Meet  HS G/B BB @ East Butler 3:4:30 V TBA
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 JV G/B BB Tourney @ Dav 9:00 (BD Letter Club)
			FCCLA Week			
	Teacher In-Service No School Board Meeting @ Bruning 7:30PM	HS GBB Meridian @ Bru JV/V 6:00/7:00	NHS Blood Drive @ Bruning Opera House 12PM  JH BBB @ McCool Jct 2:02		HS G/B BB High Plains @ Bru 6:00/7:30 JV TBA	
15	16 FFA CED #2 Welding & Poultry Judging @ SCC Lincoln  Girls Sub-Dist BB	17 Girls Sub-Dist BB	18 CRC JH/HS Quiz Bowl	19 Girls Sub-Dist BB	20 Teacher In-Service Middle School Music Contest @ Davenport JH BBB Meridian @ Bru 5:00  HS BBB Meridian @ Bru JV/V 6:7:00	21 Sutton Speech Meet
22	23 FCCLA Peer Education Conference @ Kearney  FFA CDE #4 @ McCool Jct	24	25 JH Quiz Bowl ESU 5 Invitational 1PM	26	27	28
	NATIONAL FFA WEEK February 21-28					
	Boys Sub-Dist BB	Boys Sub-Dist BB	CRC Speech	Boys Sub-Dist BB	Girls BB Dist Finals	Boys BB Dist Finals
		Notes: ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE				

## **OFFICIAL MINUTES, DAVENPORT BOARD MEETING**

The Davenport Board of Education met in session on January 12, 2026, in Bruning. Pursuant to law and notices posted in Bruning-Davenport Schools, Cornerstone Bank, Bruning Bank, Bruning Post Office, Davenport Post Office, and also published in The Hebron Journal Register on January 7, 2026; all proceedings were taken while the meeting was open to the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice President Baxter Beals. Other members present were Ryan Miller, Derek Shaner, and Brad Williams. Also present were Erika Brinegar, Principal Melinda Kerwood, and Aaron Oltmans.

Beals acknowledged the Nebraska Open Meetings Law and disclosed the location of the required information.

A discussion was held on appointing a new board member.

Ryan Miller moved, seconded by Derek Shaner, to approve a resolution appointing Aaron Oltmans to the Davenport Public School Board. (Roll Call Vote 4-0)

Aaron Oltmans read aloud the Oath of Office – Policy 2004

Shaner moved, seconded by Brad Williams, to approve the December 8, 2025, minutes as presented. (Roll Call Vote 5-0)

The Davenport local board selected the following members to the Unified Board: Ryan Miller, Aaron Oltmans, and Brad Williams.

Aaron Oltmans moved, seconded by Williams, to approve the following officers. (Roll Call Vote 5-0)

President – Jeff Hoins, Vice-President – Baxter Beals, Secretary/Treasurer – Derek Shaner

Shaner moved, seconded by Miller, to approve the following committees (Roll Call Vote 5-0)

Committee Memberships:

- a) Americanism: Baxter Beals and Aaron Oltmans
- b) Building and Grounds: Jeff Hoins and Brad Williams
- c) Transportation: Ryan Miller and Derek Shaner

Williams moved to enter into executive session “to prevent needless injury to an individual” at 7:10 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

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Erika Brinegar, Recording Secretary

## **OFFICIAL MINUTES, BRUNING BOARD MEETING**

The Bruning Board of Education met in session on January 12, 2026, in Bruning. Pursuant to law and notices posted in the Hebron Journal-Register on January 7, 2026. Cornerstone Bank, Bruning Bank, Bruning-Davenport Schools, and Post Offices: All proceedings hereafter were taken while the meeting was open to the public.

President Lon Schoenholz called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Members present were Jerry Baysinger, Sarah Krehnke, Ryne Philippi, and Trey Strong. Also present were Superintendent Kel Lampe and Tony Norder.

President Schoenholz acknowledged the Nebraska Open Meetings Law and disclosed the location of the required information.

A discussion was held on appointing a new board member.

Ryne Philippi moved, seconded by Trey Strong, to approve a resolution appointing Anthony Norder to the Bruning School Board.

Anthony Norder read aloud the Oath of Office – Policy 2004.

Strong moved, seconded by Philippi, to approve the December 8, 2025, minutes as presented. (Roll Call Vote 6-0)

The Bruning Board selected the following members to the Unified Board: Jerry Baysinger, Sarah Krehnke, and Trey Strong

Philippi moved, seconded by Sarah Krehnke, to approve Lon Schoenholz as President. (Roll Call Vote 6-0)

Lon Schoenholz moved, seconded by Krehnke, to approve Ryne Philippi as Vice-President and Tony Norder as Secretary/Treasurer. (Roll Call Vote 6-0)

### Committee Memberships:

- a) Americanism: Sarah Krehnke and Tony Norder
- b) Building and Grounds: Jerry Baysinger and Ryne Philippi
- c) Transportation: Lon Schoenholz and Trey Strong

Norder moved, seconded by Strong, to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 PM (Roll Call Vote 6-0).

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Erika Brinegar, Recording Secretary

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** – The Unified Board of Education met in Bruning on January 12, 2026. Pursuant to laws and notices posted at Bruning-Davenport Schools, Cornerstone Bank, Bruning Bank, Bruning Post Office, Davenport Post Office, and also published in The Hebron Journal Register on January 7, 2026; all proceedings were taken while the meeting was open to the public.

Vice President Philippi called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. Unified members present were Sarah Krehnke, Ryan Miller, and Brad Williams. Local board members present were Jerry Baysinger, Baxter Beals, Tony Norder, Aaron Oltmans, Lon Schoenholz, Derek Shaner, and Trey Strong. Also present were Superintendent Kelly Lampe, Principal Melinda Kerwood, Principal Ruth Kowalski, Erika Brinegar, Cammie Freitag, Amy Peterson, and Logan Zeleny.

Philippi welcomed all guests and recognized the Open Meetings Act.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A parent spoke of concerns during the public forum.

The Consent Agenda included the agenda, minutes of the December 8, 2025, Unified Board meeting, Treasurer's Report, and the January claims. Sarah Krehnke moved, seconded by Brad Williams, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote (4-0)

Bruning Election Results: President – Lon Schoenholz, Vice-President – Ryne Philippi, Secretary/Treasurer – Tony Norder. Committee Members are Americanism – Sarah Krehnke and Tony Norder, Building and Grounds – Jerry Baysinger and Ryne Philippi, and Transportation – Lon Schoenholz and Trey Strong. Membership to the Unified Board: Jerry Baysinger, Sarah Krehnke, and Trey Strong.

Davenport Election Results: President – Jeff Hoins, Vice-President – Baxter Beals, Secretary/Treasurer – Derek Shaner. Committee Members are Americanism – Baxter Beals and Aaron Oltmans, Building and Grounds – Jeff Hoins and Brad Williams, Transportation – Ryan Miller and Derek Shaner. Membership to the Unified Board: Ryan Miller, Aaron Oltmans, and Brad Williams.

Election results for the Unified Board Officers: President – Jerry Baysinger, Vice-President – Ryan Miller, Secretary/Treasurer – Sarah Krehnke.

The Unified Board appointed negotiation committee members: Certified Negotiation Committee – Jerry Baysinger, Sarah Krehnke, and Ryan Miller; Classified Negotiation Committee – Jeff Hoins, Lon Schoenholz, and Trey Strong.

BDS Coop Committee Members: Baxter Beals, Tony Norder, and Trey Strong.

Principal Kerwood's report – JH girls' basketball is wrapped up, and boys are starting – a good turnout for the Christmas concert and appreciate Mr. Acton and Mr. Stutheit for all their work – Planning an activity for the Davenport building on January 30th

Principal Kowalski's report – Speech season is about to begin – Looking at an AI policy for the school – High School will be taking a field trip to the SAC museum

President's report – No updates from the Buildings and Grounds.

Superintendent Lampe's report – Daycare financials are in the positive – Teacher negotiations are in progress – looking at Sharon Endorf with NASB to come down and offer some board member trainings

**New Business:** (All motions require a roll call vote and all carried 6-0 unless noted.)

- A. Williams moved, seconded by Miller, to approve BDEA as the bargaining agent for certificated, non-supervisory employees for the 2027-28 school year.
- B. Trey Strong moved, seconded by Krehnke, to approve the mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.725.
- C. Krehnke moved, seconded by Williams, to approve the VOIP Phone System through Eakes.
- D. Miller moved, seconded by Strong, to approve, with regrets, the resignation of Jill Catlett, effective the end of the 2025-26 school year.
- E. Williams moved, seconded by Miller, to approve Regan Alfs as a substitute teacher, pending paperwork.

Williams moved, seconded by Krehnke to go into executive session “to prevent needless injury to an individual” at 8:10 pm. Strong moved, seconded by Aaron Oltmans to come out of executive session at 8:34 pm.

Williams moved, seconded by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.