

Fowler Public Schools

Board of Education | Minutes

Regular Board Meeting, Monday, November 10, 2025 at 7:00pm | Fowler High School Media Center

Meeting called to order by President Ryan O'Rourke at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance - Recited.

Roll call taken - Ryan O'Rourke, Kristin Phillips, Matt Epkey, Andy Weber, James Jandernoa, and Kent Weber present. Brett Thelen was absent.

Superintendent/ HS Principal Patrick O'Rourke, Elementary/Middle School Principal Paul Minns, Assistant Principal/ Athletic Director Kris Ernst, Business Manager Tiffany Martin, and Secretary Sarah Sills were also present.

Presentation – Music Teacher and Band Director Jake Roorda gave a presentation about the updates in each of the music rooms and the High School Band. Amanda Smith also presented with Jake and provided information on the Band Boosters and how they support the music programs at Fowler Public Schools.

A presentation by Samantha Cain from Weinlander Fitzhugh was given for the Financial Audit of the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

Superintendent/High School Principal report: Patrick O'Rourke provided an update on the High School.

Elementary/Middle School Principal report: Paul Minns provided a report on the Elementary/Middle School.

Athletic Director's report: Kris Ernst provided an update from the Athletics Department.

Board Member Comments and Observations about Our Community Schools-

Board Member Kent Weber mentioned a few community members' concerns regarding the bus right of way signs at Waldron. The morning drop-off procedures have updated since the beginning of the school year, deeming the signs unnecessary and have therefore been removed.

Board Committee Reports – An update was given from Andy Weber that the Policy Committee had met prior to the regular board meeting. Andy reported that the committee met to discuss recent policy updates and that a majority of the updates were language and verbiage updates.

Andy Weber, Matt Epkey, James Jandernoa, and Patrick O'Rourke were in attendance of the Policy Committee meeting.

Public Participation: 2 Guests. No Comments.

There was no old business for discussion.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Andy Weber approving consent agenda items Regular Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2025 and Approval of General Fund monthly bills paid and funds transferred. Supported by Kristin Phillips. Motion carried 6-0.

New Business for Action:

- A. Motion by Kristin Phillips to approve the 2024-2025 Financial Audit. Supported by Matt Epkey. Motion carried 6-0.
- B. A motion was made by James Jandernoa to approve the Fowler Public School's Education Foundation Grant totaling \$2,191. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 6-0.

New Business for Discussion:

- A. Education Foundation Grant Recipients: Kristin Phillips reported that the Fowler Public School's Education Foundation had met and discussed the applications for the Fowler Public School's Education Foundation Grant. She reported that the committee has recommended a \$1,500 grant for a t-shirt press for the High School Resource Room's Eagle Cafe. Another grant for \$291 will be awarded towards the purchase of Kindergarten reading material. The Education Foundation will also be recommending a \$400 grant for the purchase of outdoor equipment at Waldron.

A motion was made by Kent Weber to move the approval of the Fowler Public School's Education Foundation Grant totaling \$2,191 for the Eagle Café t-shirt press, Kindergarten reading material, and outdoor equipment from a discussion item to action item B. Supported by James Jandernoa. Motion carries 6-0.

- B. Motion made by Andy Weber to move Board Policy updates po1422, po1422.02 (rescind), po1662 (rescind), po2210, po2266, po2412, po3122, po3122.02 (rescind), po3362 (rescind), po4122, 4122.02 (rescind), po4362, po5517.01, 7540.02, po7541 (rescind), po8300, po8305 to action item C. Supported by Matt Epkey. Motion carries 6-0.

Motion by James Jandernoa to waive first reading of Board Policy updates. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carries 6-0.

- C. Discussion took place among the board concerning 31AA and its parameters. The board discussed the concerns with waiving attorney client privilege for all employees; leaving all staff at an increased risk of exposure.

The board also spoke of concerns over the vague definition of "mass casualty" that could include situations such as a bus accident or multiple injuries at a sporting event.

Board members acknowledged that if the true intent of the language was an actual tragic event, and the language specified that, the conversation around accepting funds would be greatly different.

Based on this information, the board is not taking action on 31AA at this time, but will monitor for changes leading up to the November 30th opt in deadline to make a final decision.

Motion made by Matt Epkey to adjourn meeting. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Matt Epkey/ ss

Secretary