

Fowler Public Schools

Board of Education | Minutes

Regular Board Meeting, Monday, February 9, 2026 at 7:00pm | Fowler High School Media Center

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

The Pledge of Allegiance - Recited.

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

A motion was made by Kristin Phillips to appoint Brett Thelen as acting secretary for the regular meeting. Supported by James Jandernoa. Motion carried 6-0.

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

Presentation – John Den Boer and Susan Potter from Pinkster Tower presented to the Board about their firm and expertise in working with school districts and the unique needs schools possess. They gave a brief timeline of the bond process and their role in supporting the district along the way.

Scott Piggott and Rhonda Feldpausch from the Village of Fowler, Recreation Committee presented opportunities for the village to update existing playground structures and fields and possibly build new recreational spaces all through the help of grants. The Recreation Committee is in the process of applying for these grants and would need a resolution of approval from the Board as some of the play structures and fields that need updating are on school property. Scott and Rhonda will be back in March with a more defined plan.

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

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

Athletic Director's report: Kris submitted a report from the Athletics Department.

Board Member Comments and Observations about Our Community Schools- Kristin Phillips complimented the ASL students on their signing of the National Anthem at a recent home basketball game. It was impactful and well done.

Board Committee Reports – Brett Thelen reported that the Personnel/Finance committee met prior to the regular meeting to discuss the upcoming teacher negotiations and contracts. Ryan O'Rourke, Brett Thelen and Kristin Phillips were in attendance.

Public Participation: 1 Guest. No Comments.

Old Business for Discussion - None

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Kent Weber approving consent agenda items Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2026 and Approval of General Fund monthly bills paid and funds transferred. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried

6-0.

New Business for Action:

Patrick O'Rourke and Tiffany Martin provided a report on the 2025-2026 Budget Amendment. Tiffany gave a verbal explanation of the budget amendment to the Board. Motion by Andy Weber to approve the 2025-2026 Budget Amendment. Supported by Kristin Phillips. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Kent Weber to approve the hire of Tim Roe, Athletic Trainer. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by James Jandernoa to approve the Relinquishing of Title III Immigrant Students/Carry Funds. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 6-0.

New Business for Discussion:

Patrick O'Rourke gave an update on the AI Framework progress. Brett Thelen complimented the committee on their diligence in staying up to date in utilizing AI and setting up safeguards for our students.

Motion made by Kristin Phillips to enter into closed session, at 8:19pm for consideration of written attorney client privileged documents from Thrun Law Firm. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Brett Thelen to exit closed session, at 8:56pm, and return to regular board meeting. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Andy Weber to adjourn meeting. Supported by James Jandernoa. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett Thelen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brett Thelen/ ss

Acting Secretary