

# Fowler Public Schools

## Board of Education | Minutes

### Regular Board Meeting, Monday, March 9, 2026 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, Brett Thelen, Kristin Phillips, Matt Epkey, Andy Weber, James Jandernoa, and Kent Weber present.

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

**Presentation:** Kelly Shruager, Dan Tryles, and Steve Wisniewski from Kingscott presented to the Board about their firm and successes they have in working with schools of varying sizes. Kelly and Dan highlighted their processes in facilities needs assessments, community engagements, and campaign strategies. Steve spoke on his commitment to overseeing projects from start to finish to cultivate long term relationships with clients.

**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 Ernst provided a written report on Athletics.

**Board Member Comments and Observations about Our Community Schools** – Board Member Kristin Phillips thanked Kris Ernst and all that were involved for their time in facilitating the basketball camps.

Board Member Kristin Phillips also complimented the High School Band on their performance at MSBOA and the students' respectful behavior and representation of Fowler Public Schools despite difficult judging.

**Board Committee Reports:** The Curriculum Committee met prior to the regular meeting. Kristin Phillips, Ryan O'Rourke and Andy Weber were in attendance and Becky Rotary provided a brief presentation to the committee an overview of the entire district's current curriculum. Kristin spoke on behalf of the committee; they discussed replacing the social studies curriculum for middle school and high school levels and reviewed quotes from McGraw Hill. Collectively, the committee supports the purchase of the McGraw Hill curriculum.

**Public Participation** 4 Guests – Jonathan Thelen spoke on a concern he had relating to a student situation and its handling by a teacher. He addressed the impact it had on the students involved.

**Old Business for Discussion - None**

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Kristin Phillips approving consent agenda items Regular Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2026, Closed Minutes of February 9, 2026 and Approval of General Fund Monthly Bills paid and funds transferred. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 7-0.

**New Business for Action:**

- A. Motion made by Kent Weber to approve the hire of Head Softball Coach, Brian Miller. Supported by Kristin Phillips. Motion carried 7-0.
- B. Motion made by Brett Thelen to approve the Resolution to Support Village Recreation Application. Supported by Andy Weber. Motion carried 7-0.
- C. Motion made by James Jandernoa to change the September meeting date from September 7, 2026 to September 14, 2026. Supported by Kristin Phillips. Motion carried 7-0.
- D. Motion made by James Jandernoa to approve the purchase of Social Studies Curriculum. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 7-0.
- E. The vote to approve 2026-2027 School Year Calendar was tabled until the April meeting.
- F. Motion made by Matt Epkey to approve the Nucleus Education Curriculum Donation. Supported by Kristin Phillips. Motion carried 7-0.
- G. Motion made by Matt Epkey to approve the 27L (2) Letter of Agreement. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 7-0.

**New Business for Discussion:**

- A. Patrick O'Rourke discussed with the board the new Fowler Public School cell phone and smart device policy and AI Framework Guide to Use.

Motion made by James Jandernoa to enter into closed session, at 8:07pm, for upcoming negotiations. Supported by Kent Weber. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Andy Weber to exit closed session, at 8:18pm, and return to regular board meeting. Supported by Brett Thelen. Motion carried 6-0.

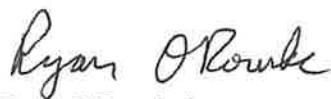
Motion made by Kent Weber to adjourn the meeting, Supported by Kristin Weber. Motion carried 6-0 (Matt Epkey left before adjournment). Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Matt Epkey/ ss

Secretary



Ryan O'Rourke/ ss

President