

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
St. Francis Community Schools
April 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 a.m. by the President, Troy Hilt.

ATTENDANCE PRESENT: All members of the Board of Education were present.

ADMINISTRATION & PATRONS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Penka, Principal Delbert Schmidt, Principal Susan Dinkel, District Clerk Tania Quintero, and community members Ted Busse and Sheree Wingo.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chris Hingst moved to amend the agenda to move Public Comment to the beginning of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bruce Swihart. **Motion carried 7-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ted Busse addressed the Board regarding the extension of junior high basketball and wrestling seasons.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

The Board reviewed and discussed the items on the consent calendar. A motion was then made by Bruce Swihart, seconded by Chris Hingst, to approve the consent calendar, including the following items: a) The minutes of the Regular Board meeting on March 12th, 2026. b) A list of bills being paid, direct deposits, and checks numbered #19121-19193 at FNB Bank, in the total amount of \$377,449.57. c) The Cash Summary Report, the Grade School Activity Fund Report, and the High School Activity Fund Report - all as of March 6th, 2026(including one transfer in the amount of \$27,312.00 from General Fund to the Special Ed Fund). d) One gift offer in the amount of \$ \$500.00 from Midwest Energy In for NHS. **Motion carried 7-0**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Hiring Committee: The committee recommended:

Brock Waters- High School Physical Education Teacher, Head High school Tack Coach, and Coach for Summer weight Program. **Ted Busse-** Head High School Girls Basketball Coach. **Nathan Ehresman-** Junior High/Junior Cross Country Coach. **Ross Barnett-** Head Junior High Girls Basketball Coach. ShayLinn Zwegardt made a motion to approve the new hire, seconded by Chris Hingst, and carried. **Motion carried 7-0**

Scholarship Committee:

- **Next, Superintendent Penka requested a 05-minute executive session to discuss individual students. Shawna Blanka made the following motion, which was seconded and carried. Mr. President, I move that the board recess into executive session to discuss the performance of individual students to protect their privacy pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and that the open meeting shall resume at 9:03 a.m. No action was taken.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Junior High Sports: Bruce Swihart moved to maintain the junior high sports schedules as currently set. The motion was seconded by Traci Neitzel. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Legislative Updates: The Board discussed state mandates regarding cell phone bans. Administration was directed to draft an enforcement policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Fixed Broom Purchase: Bruce Swihart moved to purchase a new fixed broom for the Grasshopper equipment. The motion was seconded by Shawna Blanka. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Mission Statement and Motto: Chris Hingst moved to adopt the new mission statement and the motto "Challenging Minds, Inspiring Futures." The motion was seconded by ShayLinn Zwegardt. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Member Shawna Blanka departed the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

2026-2027 School Calendar: Bruce Swihart moved to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar. The motion was seconded by ShayLinn Zwegardt. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Classified Staff & Substitute Teachers Salaries: ShayLinn Zwegardt moved to adjust 2026-2027 classified staff and substitute teacher salaries to maintain annual compensation levels following the transition to a four-day work week. The motion was seconded by Chris Hingst. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Non-Licensed Contracts: ShayLinn Zwegardt moved to extend 2026-2027 contracts to all classified staff who have not submitted resignations. The motion was seconded by Bruce Swihart. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Personnel:

1. **Resignations:** Bruce Swihart moved to accept the resignations of Kourtney Finley, elementary teacher, and Ted Busse, junior high basketball and track coach. The motion was seconded by Chris Hingst. **Motion carried 7-0.**
2. **Reinstatement:** ShayLinn Zwegardt moved to reinstate Leslie Steggs to her previous position following the rescission of her resignation. The motion was seconded by Traci Neitzel. **Motion carried 6-0.**

MISCELLANEOUS:

Suburban Bids: Bruce Swihart moved to accept the high bid of \$500 from John Bays for the school Suburban. The motion was seconded by Chris Hingst. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Exit Interviews: By consensus, the Board directed administration to implement exit interviews for all departing employees.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular meeting was rescheduled for Thursday, May 7, at 7:00 a.m. Chris Hingst moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by ShayLinn Zwegardt. **Motion carried 6-0.** The meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.