

BOONE COUNTY DISTRICT No. 17
(aka ST. EDWARD PUBLIC SCHOOL)
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET HEARING, TAX REQUEST HEARING, AND REGULAR MEETING
St. Edward School Science Room – St. Edward, Nebraska
Monday, September 14, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

The St. Edward Public School Board of Education conducted a budget hearing on Monday, September 14, 2026 at the schoolhouse. Advance notice of the meeting was published in The Albion News & Boone County Tribune on September 2, 2026, and posted in the school's main office on September 2, 2026 along with the agenda for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget. The budget details were available at the office of the Superintendent during regular business hours.

1. Opening Procedures:

- a. The budget hearing was called to order by President Roberts at 6:30 p.m. with members Christman, Merrell, Reardon, Cumming and Cruise, present. Also in attendance were Steve Osborn, Michael Roscoe, and Tyler Gray
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. President Roberts stated the hearing will follow the Open Meetings Act, which is located in the meeting room.
- d. The purpose of hearing is to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget and to consider amendments relative thereto.
- e. Mr. Osborn presented the proposed budget to the board of education and patrons.

For the 2026–2027 school year, the proposed operating budget includes five primary funds. The General Fund is \$5,720,004; the Depreciation Fund is \$32,795; the Activity Fund is \$275,000; the School Nutrition Fund is \$250,000; and the Special Building Fund is \$308,191.

Of these funds, the General Fund and Special Building Fund are supported through property tax asking.

The proposed General Fund budget represents an increase of 7.93% over the previous year. The primary factors contributing to this increase are salaries and employee benefits, the adoption of new curriculum, the acquisition of a vehicle, and the ongoing costs associated with maintaining our school facilities.

The Special Building Fund reflects a 13.94% decrease from the previous year. This decrease is largely the result of the district's success in completing several projects over the past two years. While we have been able to complete these projects, the Board continues its belief of the importance to modestly grow the Special Building Fund each year. Maintaining a reasonable balance allows the district to address necessary facility improvements and be prepared for unexpected building or site-related expenses.

Overall, this budget reflects the district's effort to continue providing the resources necessary to support students and staff while remaining responsible stewards of local taxpayer dollars.

- f. The budget hearing adjourned at 6:33p.m. by executive order.

The St. Edward Public School Board of Education conducted a special hearing on Monday, September 14, 2026, at the schoolhouse. Advance notice of the meeting was published in The Albion News & Boone County Tribune on September 2, 2026, and posted in the school's main office on September 2, 2026 along with the agenda. The purpose of hearing was to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request at a different amount than the prior year tax request.

2. Opening Procedures:

- a. The special hearing was called to order by President Roberts at 6:33 p.m. with members Christman, Merrell, Reardon, Cumming and Cruise, present. Also in attendance were Steve Osborn, Michael Roscoe and Tyler Gray
- b. President Roberts stated the hearing will follow the Open Meetings Act, which is in the meeting room.
- c. The purpose of hearing is to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the proposed tax request and to consider amendments relative thereto.
- d. Mr. Osborn presented the information to the board on setting the final tax asking.

For the 2026–2027 school year, the district's final tax asking is \$3,540,968. This represents an increase of \$74,372 over last year's total tax request. (2.145% increase)

The change in the tax asking reflects a \$114,425 increase in the General Fund tax asking totaling \$3,459,827 and a \$40,071 decrease in the Special Building Fund tax asking totaling \$81,141. The reduction in tax asking for the Building Fund is largely the result of the increased asking last year, which was necessary to compensate for the costs associated with recently completed projects.

The resulting tax rate is \$0.542784 per \$100 of valuation, which is an increase in the tax rate of \$0.011398 from the previous year.

It is also important to note that the district's total tax asking remains \$598,238 below the district's available tax asking authority and is well within the budget limitations established by the Nebraska Department of Education.

- e. The district will not participate in the Joint Public Hearing process for the 2026–2027 fiscal year.
- f. The special hearing adjourned at 6:35 p.m. by executive order

The St. Edward Public School Board of Education conducted a regular meeting on Monday, September 14, 2026. Advance notice of the meeting agenda was published in The Albion News/Boone County Tribune on September 2, 2026.

3. Opening Procedures - Regular Meeting

- a. The meeting was called to order by President Roberts at 6:35 p.m. with members Christman, Merrell, Reardon, Cumming and Cruise, present. Also in attendance were Steve Osborn, Michael Roscoe, and Tyler Gray
- b. Open Meeting Law Posted
- c. Pledge of Allegiance
- d. President Roberts set the next board meetings, hearings: date and times:

1. Regular Monthly Meeting date: October 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
2. Policy Committee Meeting date: October 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

2. Visitor/Patron recognition: Visitor/Patron recognition – Speaker request:

- a. none

3. Reports

a. Mr. Gray's Activity Director Report

Fall Sports Games Have Started

- High School Football next game is Friday, September 18th vs. Neligh-Oakdale (@Newman Grove)
- JV Football Tonight against Humphrey-Lindsay in Lindsay

- High School Volleyball next games are Tuesday against Giltner in Newman Grove and on Thursday, September 17th at Osmond.
- JH/HS Cross Country next meet is in O'Neill on Friday, September 18th
- JH Football played today at Humphrey-Lindsay
- JH Volleyball started their season against Fullerton on September 1st, their next game will be on Wednesday, September 16th against Nebraska Christian in Newman Grove

Upcoming FFA Activities:

- FFA goes to Husker Harvest Days on Tuesday, September 15th.
- Ag Olympics is scheduled for September 24th at 12:15 PM.
- Feed the Farmer is scheduled for October 2nd.
- Area Land Judging is on October 7th in Ord

b. Mr. Roscoe's Principal Report

- The Back to School Day was very successful for students to get situated before school started
 - All but 5 secondary students showed up during the time frame to get their Chromebooks
 - Special thank you to the Student Council for having a Lemonade Stand with different flavors for students and parents
- Thank you to Jen Nauenburg, the St. Edward Volunteer Fire Department, Boone County Sheriff Department, and Levander's Funeral Home for putting together the Mock Scenario on Thursday August 20th
 - Students got to see all departments in action and hear helpful insight and caution afterwards about the effects of distracted driving
- The staff would like to give a big thank you to everyone that graciously donated/sponsored the free drinks from Grace's Coffee on Monday August 24th, it was a perfect way to start the second week of school
- Homecoming Week was held during August 31st to September 4th
 - Dress Up Days - Monday: Country Club vs Country Western, Tuesday: Class Movie Day, Wednesday: Anything But a Backpack, Thursday: White Lies Tees, Friday: Maroon, Blue, and White Spirit Day
 - Pep Rally was held on Thursday at the Football Field
 - Lockers - 1st: Freshmen, 2nd: 8th Grade, 3rd: Juniors
 - Banners - 1st: Juniors, 2nd: 8th Grade, 3rd: Seniors
 - Skits - 1st: Sophomores, 2nd: Seniors, 3rd: Freshmen
 - Floats - 1st: Juniors, 2nd: 8th Grade, 3rd: 7th Grade
 - Class Spirit Award - Class of 2031 (8th Grade)
 - Homecoming Coronation and Dance were held on Friday Evening
- There were 35 students that attended the dance

c. Faculty/Student Recognition

- Thank you to all staff members for making the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year successful and transitioning our students back into the school routine.
- Congratulations to Shinel Justus for winning the inaugural Lunch Pail Award for the Week of August 17th
- Thank you to Mrs. Tenski for picking up and delivering all the drink orders from Grace's Coffee on Monday August 24th
- Congratulations to Jacob Reardon for winning the Lunch Pail Award for the Week of August 24th
- Congratulations to Jocelin Bernal for winning the Lunch Pail Award for the Week of August 31st

- Congratulations to Homecoming Court
 - Freshmen Attendants - Khale Allen and Addison Applegarth
 - Sophomore Attendants - Jaxon Reader and Rosie Labenz
 - Junior Attendants - Triton Sindelar and Zoey Walz
 - King Candidates - Calvin Sindelar, Colton Funkhouser, Ryder Beekman, Damien Jones
 - Queen Candidates - Kaylee Applegarth, Korina Bittner, Arlette Irineo, Kate Werts
- Congratulations to Calvin Sindelar who was voted Homecoming King and Kate Werts who was voted Homecoming Queen
- Thank you to Dave and Cindy Merrell for presenting information to the 6th grade class from their summer travels to other areas of the world
- Thank you to Vanessa Cumming for presenting information to the 6th grade class from her summer travels to Fiji.
- Thank you to Dave Merrell for conducting our fall bus evacuation drills—Excellent job as always

d. Mr. Osborn's Superintendent/Elementary Principal Report

Elementary News

- The school year is off to a great start. The students and staff are settling into a routine, and everything seems to be flowing pretty smoothly.
- We have started a new awards/recognition process at the elementary level. Mrs. Rasmussen is planning to attend the October Meeting to share details on the program.
- We were again awarded the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for this school year. It will serve 4-year-old PK through 6th grade. We will provide this program twice a week throughout the year. We started the week of August 17th, and it is going well.
- Dave and Cindy Merrell visited the 6th grade class and shared their experiences from their recent trip to the "land down under." They all had the opportunity to experience Vegemite. The visit was very educational, and the students enjoyed the experience.
- Vanessa Cumming visited the 6th grade classroom and shared some of her experiences from her trip to Fiji. The student got the opportunity to taste 'caro' and fresh coconut juice. The visit was very educational, and the students enjoyed the experience.
- We participated in our first elementary field trip on September 9. The 6th grade traveled to the Hastings Museum.
- On September 22nd, the 5th and 6th graders will be attending My Health Rocks (formerly Healthy Habits Day) at the Boone County Fairgrounds. This is normally a 5th grade trip but last year the 5th graders were unable to attend so they were invited to attend this year as 6th graders.

Project Updates

- Nothing new to report at this time.

Staffing

- We are getting our paras situated to best meet the needs of our students. We should be pretty settled by the end of this third week of September. This generally takes some time to personnel situated

Other Information:

- The first phase of the COPS grant has been completed with the grant writer from ESU 7. The purpose of this grant would be to upgrade our surveillance system and add all call (intercom) capabilities to our

hallways, lunchroom, shop, and gymnasium. I am waiting to hear where we are at in the selection process.

- Our first late start of the year will take place on September 16.
 - I have collaboration activities for the elementary staff in place. They have the necessary information for the activities. The purpose of these collaboration sessions is to discuss grade-level readiness and how well students were prepared for the expectations of the next grade level. Teachers will use this time to reflect on the students who entered their classroom this fall and discuss how well prepared they were to begin the grade-level curriculum in the four core subject areas: ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The goal is not to evaluate individual students or teachers. Rather, the goal is to identify strengths, areas of need, and practices we can continue or improve to better prepare our students for success at the next grade level.
 - Mr. Roscoe will be holding a collective collaboration meeting with the secondary staff. During this time, they will be discussing a handful of questions, concerns, strategies, or anything that may arise. Topics will include:
 - Cell Phone Policy
 - Student Behavior/Culture/Climate
 - Strategies Working in Classroom in regard to Vocab and Number Sense
 - SPED Scheduling and How it is Working
 - Support from Admin, How Can I Help?
 - Anything Else for the Good of the Cause.

4. Upcoming Meeting and Conferences:

- The registration will open September 16 for the State Education Conference scheduled for November 18-20, 2026 at the CHI Health Conference Center. Let me know if you are interested in attending and I will get you registered. So far, I plan to attend and D. Roberts is planning to attend.
- I am scheduled to attend the Annual NCSA School Law Fall Update on September 16, 2026. I will be attending virtually since it is our first late start. Mr. Roscoe will join as his schedule allows.
- I am scheduled to attend the Annual Labor Relations Conference on September 29–30, 2026. This will be held in Lincoln.

5. Standing Committee Meeting

- A Finance Committee meeting was held prior to our board planning session to review the recommendations for a final review of the budget and tax requests.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Regular August 10, 2026 meeting minutes
- b. Financial Report
- c. Bills and Claims payment for September 2026.

It was moved by Roberts and seconded by Merrell to approve the consent agenda.

Roll call vote: Reardon-Yea, Roberts-Yea, Cruise-Yea, Merrell-Yea, Christman-Yea, Cumming-Yea:

Motion carried 6-0.

7. Action Items

- a) Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to adopt the 2026–2027 School District Budget as presented.

It was moved by Roberts and seconded by Cumming to adopt the 2026–2027 School District Budget as presented.

Roll call vote: Reardon-Yea, Roberts-Yea, Cruise-Yea, Merrell-Yea, Christman-Yea, Cumming-Yea:

Motion carried 6-0

- b) Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to approve the Resolution Setting the 2026–2027 Property Tax Request

It was moved by Merrell and seconded by Reardon to approve the Resolution Setting the 2026–2027 Property Tax Request.

Roll call vote: Reardon-Yea, Roberts-Yea, Cruise-Yea, Merrell-Yea, Christman-Yea, Cumming-Yea:
Motion carried 6-0

- c) Discussion with action to approve the District Emergency Operation Plans.

It was moved by Roberts and seconded by Christman to approve the District Emergency Operation Plans

Roll call vote: Reardon-Yea, Roberts-Yea, Cruise-Yea, Merrell-Yea, Christman-Yea, Cumming-Yea:
Motion carried 6-0

8. The meeting was adjourned by Executive Authority at 7:02 p.m.

Sherri Cruise, Secretary/Treasurer