

**CRESTON SCHOOL DISTRICT #9
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
9 OCTOBER 2025**

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order. Jessica Sandven-Sorensen called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:10 a.m. The meeting was held in the gym. Present were Board Trustees Jessica Sandven-Sorensen, Twila Brenneman, Megan Derrington, Barry Farrell and Nevada Hafer. Also in attendance were Dr. Cheryl Peterson, Principal, Gina McWilliam, District Clerk, Cindi Conley, Teacher, Melissa Potts, Teacher.
- II. Minutes of 11 September and 23 September 2025. Nevada Hafer moved to approve the minutes as presented. Megan Derrington seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. Public Participation / Correspondence – nil.
- IV. Information Item
 - A. MSLIP Safety Inspection Report
 - B. Clerk. The Statement of Expenditure was provided through the end of September 2025. Accounts are reconciled to the County Treasurer through August 2025. See the Clerk Report for details.
 - C. Principal. See the Principal's Report for details.
 - D. Staff. Cindi Conley and Melissa Potts were present to share the report via a Google Slide presentation.

The Board requested an update on the open position of Custodian, Maintenance and Bus Driver. Dr. Peterson reported we are waiting for fingerprint results on a bus driver applicant. Custodian responsibilities are currently being covered by a teacher under an extra-duty contract; however, we do have one applicant for this position as well.

V. Policies – Policy Review -

The Board did a first reading of the following policies. No action was needed or taken. The Board requested that in the future policies be presented in batches and that each batch be fully reviewed and finalized prior to the introduction of the next batch of policies to be reviewed.

New

Policy 5252: Notice of Nonrenewal of Nontenured Teacher for Financial Reasons

Policy 8560: Display of Flags and Banners on District Property

Amend

Policy 1009FE: Recruitment and Retention – Flexible Instructor Licensing

Policy 1210: Qualifications, Terms, Duties of Board Officers

Policy 2050: Innovative Student Instruction

Policy 2132: Student and Family Privacy Rights

Policy 2158: Parent and Family Engagement and Educational Involvement

Policy 2334: Release Time for Religious Instruction

Policy 2450: Indian Education for All

Policy 3110: Entrance, Placement, and Transfer

Policy 3121: Enrollment and Attendance Records

Policy 3141: Nonresident Student Attendance

Policy 3650: Montana Pupil Online Information Protection Act

Policy 8301: District Safety

Annual Review

Policy 1400: Board Meetings

The Board asked for clarification on Policy 5252 and why we should consider adopting it. Dr. Peterson will research and get back to the Board. Answer provided after research: HB602 specifies that non-renewal of a nontenured teacher for financial reasons is non-renewal without cause and requires the matter to be placed on a Board meeting agenda before June 1. In order to comply with this bill, MTSBA is recommending adoption of a new Policy 5252.

VI. Consideration of Action Items:

- A. MTSUIP Annual Meeting. No action taken.
- B. Employment Agreement – SM. The responsibilities of the employee in the Office Aide position have changed significantly since the contract was originally signed in June 2025. The needs of the school have evolved based off of student needs for the 2025/2026 school year and demands in the front office. Sarah Motley is capable and willing to fulfill the extra responsibilities in addition to increasing her work week from three days to four days. The rate of pay has been established to fairly compensate the employee for the increased responsibilities. Nevada Hafer moved to approve the revised contract of Office Aide for Sarah Motley as presented. Twila Brenneman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. District Goals for 2025/2026. A review of the goals of the District that reflect the District's Strategic Plan of Education. Twila Brenneman moved to adopt the Creston School District Goals for 2025/2026 as presented. Megan Derrington seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. District-to-District Requests. There are two attendance agreement requests for students that reside in our district, the students are attending KMS. Barry Farrell moved to approve the agreements as presented. Megan Derrington seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. Gym & School Grounds Use Requests. A request by Friends of Creston to use the gym on Friday, October 24, 2025 from 3:00 – 5:00p.m. for fall activities for students. Megan Derrington moved to approve the gym use request as presented. Barry Farrell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

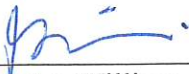
VII. Claims Approval - Consideration of Action. Twila Brenneman moved to approve the claims approval list for October 2025 as presented. Nevada Hafer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Next Meeting Dates:

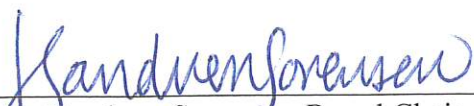
- A. 13 November 2025, 7:00am, Regular Meeting
- B. 11 December 2025, 7:00am, Regular Meeting

IX. Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gina McWilliam, District Clerk



Jessica Sandven-Sorensen, Board Chair