

SOUTH BORDER CO-OP MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00 pm
ITV Room, Wishek Public School, Wishek ND

I. The Wednesday, March 23, 2026, co-op board meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with members present: Curtis Meidinger, Rocky Brown, Trina Schilling, Danielle Goebel and Neil Horner (Wishek Public School Board), Lyle Fey via phone, Ross Litsey, Jordan Jenner, Corey Ulmer (Ashley School Board) Also, present were Shawn Kuntz, Charles Brandner, Jason Schmidt, Chris Doane, Bethany Vilhauer, Jeremy St. Aubin, Julianna Wolff, Barrett Herr, Curtis Kessler, Colin Crabtree and Michael Bechtle.

II. Agenda Addition/Approval: Removal of d)

Agenda Approval Motion made by Danielle Goebel, seconded by Neil Horner to approve agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Agenda Items:

a. School Song Presentation

Ms. Julianna Wolff presented a proposed school song, including background information and a live performance. After discussion, Jenner moved, Brown seconded to adopt the presented piece as the official South Border Co-Op School Song. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Bus Driver Sit-Time Pay

The board reviewed last year's increase to drive-time pay (\$25/hr CDL; \$15/hr non-CDL) and discussed raising CDL sit-time pay from \$15/hr to \$25/hr for consistency. Horner moved, Ulmer seconded to set CDL sit-time pay at \$25/hr, matching CDL drive-time. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Transportation Reimbursement Rates

Current reimbursement for all vehicle types is \$1.25/mile. The board reviewed comparisons among regular vehicles, mini-buses, and full-size buses, as well as data from Harlow's on operating costs, repairs, fuel, and insurance.

After discussing rate structures and alignment with state mileage rates, Brown moved, Jenner seconded to adopt the following reimbursement schedule:

- Regular vehicles: State rate – \$0.73/mile
- Mini-buses: Double state rate – \$1.46/mile
- Full-size buses: Triple state rate – \$2.19/mile

Motion carried unanimously.

d. ~~Athlete Transportation — Release of Responsibility~~

e. 8th Grade Participation in JV/Varsity Athletics

The board held an extended discussion on whether 8th-grade students should continue to be moved up to JV or Varsity to address roster shortages. Key points included:

- Prior practice required agreement among the student, parents, and coaches; this policy no longer exists in current guidelines.
- Concerns included student readiness, player development, morale, and long-term effects on program structure.
- Athletic Directors advised that students should only be moved up when they are fully prepared, not solely for numbers.
- Scheduling challenges were noted, particularly regarding combining JH, JV, and Varsity games on the same night.
- Future enrollment projections and the impact on team sizes were reviewed.

Consensus emerged to maintain flexibility while reinforcing appropriate oversight.

Decision: The board agreed to continue handling 8th-grade movement on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of coaches and Athletic Directors, with parent involvement and situational considerations. No formal policy change adopted.

f. Practice Locations Based on Participation Numbers

The board reviewed participation data for fall sports and discussed adjusting practice locations to better reflect student numbers in each district. Current 50/50 practice scheduling has created inefficiencies, particularly for fall activities.

Participation numbers reviewed included:

- Elementary Volleyball: Wishek 18, Ashley 8
- Track (boys & girls): Wishek 23, Ashley 12
- Baseball (co-op with Kulm and Gackle): Ashley 6, Wishek 6, Kulm 4, Gackle 3

The board noted that winter sports are split due to gym space and that spring sports naturally centralize in Wishek because of facility availability (track, equipment, and baseball co-op proximity). Games will continue to be split evenly between districts.

Motion: Horner moved, Brown seconded to amend Item 11 of the co-op guidelines by removing the phrase “and practices at school” and adding “excluding baseball.” Discussion included communication procedures for handling concerns between districts. Motion carried unanimously.

g. HUDL Contract Review

The HUDL contract is up for renewal this spring. The board discussed whether to continue using HUDL or explore alternatives. Information from HUDL representatives was reviewed, including scouting/statistics features and livestreaming.

Key points discussed:

- HUDL currently provides higher-quality imaging and less technical difficulty compared to alternatives.
- The mounted football camera cannot be moved to the baseball field due to lack of Wi-Fi.
- Multiple package options exist based on sports offered.
- The board discussed requiring each sport to secure sponsorships to help offset livestreaming costs.
- NFHS was briefly reviewed for comparison.

Motion: Brown moved, Goebel seconded to maintain current prices for Varsity livestreaming, allow price adjustments for Elementary and JH, and require \$750 in sponsorship per sport for livestreaming to occur.

Roll Call Vote: Schilling – yes; Brown – yes; Horner – yes; Goebel – yes; Ulmer – yes; Litsey – yes; Jenner – yes; Meidinger – yes; Fey – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

h. Charter/Activity Bus Discussion

The board discussed the possibility of sharing the cost of a charter bus and reviewed budget considerations, benefits, and drawbacks.

Action: A committee was formed to research charter bus cost options and report back to the board.

i. Motel Room Policy for Coaches

The board reviewed current practice whereby coaches occasionally share beds when hotel space is limited. Members agreed coaches must have their own bed and discussed providing options for individual rooms.

Motion: Schilling moved, Brown seconded that if coaches share a room, the school covers 100% of the cost; if a coach requests a private room, the cost will be split 50% school / 50% coach. Motion carried unanimously.

j. Meals/Per Diem for State Events

The board reviewed State per diem usage, noting \$4,824 spent on State Wrestling this year at \$45/day per student. Discussion included whether the amount is adequate and the expectation that parents may send additional funds.

Decision: The board will retain the current per diem rate.

Adjournment: Motion made by Trina Schilling, seconded by Danielle Goebel to adjourn the meeting.

The co-op meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Curtis Meidinger, Wishek School Board President

Lyle Fey, Ashley School Board President

Bethany Vilhauer, Wishek School Business Manager