

# March Newsletter – 2026

- Mar 2 - Boys District Finals Basketball – TBD
- Mar 3 - Boys District Finals Basketball - TBD
- Mar 4-7 Girls State Basketball @ Lincoln
- Mar 9 - Board Meeting - 6pm
- Mar 11-14 Boy State Basketball
- Mar 12-13 **SPRING BREAK – NO SCHOOL**
- Mar 17 - Speech and Sweets (see flyer)
- Mar 21 - Alumni Basketball Tournament – TBD
- Mar 21 - District Speech @ Gering
- Mar 24 - One School/One Book Movie Night (see flyer)
- Mar 25-27 - State FFA Convention @ Lincoln
- Mar 26 - NHS Blood Drive (see flyer)
- Mar 27 - Track @ Sidney – 9am
- Mar 28 - State Speech @ Kearney
- Mar 30 - MAC Music @ South Platte
- Apr 2 - Track @ Bayard – 8:30am
- Apr 3-6 - **EASTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL**



**\*ALL ACTIVITY TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND ARE  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE\***

Also visit the Leyton School website @ [www.leytonwarriors.org](http://www.leytonwarriors.org)



Proceedings of Leyton Public Schools Board of Education  
Cheyenne County School District #17-0003  
High School Library  
Regular Board Meeting - February 9, 2026  
6:00 PM

**Call to Order:**

The regular board meeting of Leyton Public School District Board of Education was called to order on February 9, 2026, at 6:00 PM, in the Library of Leyton High School, Dalton, NE 69131. The Open Meetings Act was posted on the wall of the Library. Publicized notice of the meeting was posted in the Sidney Sun-Telegraph, Leyton High School, Leyton Elementary/JH, at various businesses in the community, and on the school website ([www.leytonwarriors.org](http://www.leytonwarriors.org)) on or before Thursday, February 5, 2026.

Attendance Taken at 6:00 PM.

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Benish:      | Present |
| Mr. Ernest:  | Present |
| Mrs. Ernest: | Absent  |
| Jones:       | Present |
| Schumacher:  | Present |
| Wiedeman:    | Present |

Also present were Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Charles Jones, Janella Kruse, Alison Haley, Macey Roelle, Mrs. Rathman, and Mr. Henderson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There was no communication for the Board.

Moved by Benish, seconded by Jones, to excuse Board Member Mrs. Ernest from tonight's meeting. Roll Call vote: Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea. Motion Carried: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Moved by Wiedeman, seconded by Benish, to approve the agenda. Roll Call vote: Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea. Motion Carried: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

There were no public comments made during the meeting.

**Reports:**

Macey Roelle presented the student council report to the board.

Mr. Wiedeman presented information from the Legislative Conference.

Mr. Jones and Mr. McLaughlin presented their administrative reports to the board.

### **Regular Agenda: Discussion Items**

The board discussed scoreboards in both gyms, the football field at Gurley, bagging mower, gym floors at both sites, adding a position to the elementary school, the annual calendar, and vending machines.

The board reviewed policies 5000-5017 as part of the three-year review cycle.

### **Regular Agenda: Action Items**

Moved by Benish, seconded by Mr. Jones, to recognize the following staff and students: Ms. Van Anne, Mrs. Rushman, and the students involved in FFA for their work holding the annual Labor Auction. The Boys Basketball Team for placing 2<sup>nd</sup> at the MAC tournament. The Girls Basketball Team for going 1-1 in the MAC Tournament. Mr. Oakes and members of the High School Band for their good showing at MAC Music. Macey Roelle for earning her State Degree in FFA. Roll Call vote: Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea, Benish: Yea. Motion Carried: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Moved by Jones, seconded by Benish, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026, regular meeting. Roll Call vote: Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea, Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent. Motion Carried: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Moved by Wiedeman, seconded by Schumacher, to approve the claims, warrants, and transfers. Roll Call vote: Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea, Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea. Motion Carried: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Moved by Mr. Ernest, seconded by Wiedeman, to approve the negotiated agreement as presented to the board. Roll Call vote: Wiedeman: Yea, Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea. Motion Carried: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Moved by Mr. Schumacher, seconded by Benish, to enter into executive session at 7:20 PM to protect the public interest or to prevent needless injury to the reputation of an individual, provided that such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter for entering into executive session tonight is a strategy session regarding the compensation of the Administrators at Leyton Public Schools. Roll Call vote: Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea. Motion Carried: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Moved by Mr. Schumacher, seconded by Wiedeman, to return from executive session at 7:58 PM. Roll Call vote: Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea, Benish: Yea. Motion Carried: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

No action was taken in executive session.

Moved by Schumacher, seconded by Jones, to table the Principal's contract until next month. Roll Call vote: Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea, Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent. Motion Tabled Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Moved by Jones, seconded by Benish, to table the Superintendent's contract until next month. Roll Call vote: Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea, Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea. Motion Tabled: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Moved by Benish, seconded by Wiedeman, to approve the hire of Ms. Kylee Rahmig as an Elementary Special Education teacher. Roll Call vote: Wiedeman: Yea, Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Abstain, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea. Motion Carried Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain: 1.

**Informational Items:**

NRCSA conference is March 19-20.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the High School Library.

**Adjournment:**

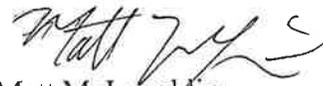
Moved by Ernest, seconded by Benish, to adjourn at 8:07 PM. Roll Call vote: Benish: Yea, Mr. Ernest: Yea, Mrs. Ernest: Absent, Jones: Yea, Schumacher: Yea, Wiedeman: Yea. Motion Carried: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Approved by,



Shad Benish, Treasurer  
Leyton Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,



Matt McLaughlin,  
Recording Secretary

Leyton Public Schools - Payable Journal - February 2026

|                          |                  |              |                        |                    |              |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Amazon Capital Services  | Supplies         | \$ 1,230.68  | Mobius                 | Repairs & Maint.   | \$ 390.00    |
| Black Hills Energy       | Utilities        | \$ 4,071.63  | Becky Murray           | Supplies           | \$ 68.44     |
| Blazing Trails Media     | Legal Notices    | \$ 202.83    | NAPA Auto Parts        | Supplies           | \$ 8.76      |
| Bomgaars                 | Supplies         | \$ 182.77    | NASB - ALICAP          | Insurance          | \$ 1,634.00  |
| Capital Business Systems | Copiers          | \$ 1,680.14  | NASB                   | Membership         | \$ 3,685.00  |
| Cranmore Pest Control    | Services         | \$ 140.00    | Nick Newkirk           | Mileage            | \$ 8.70      |
| Crossroads Tech Services | Repairs & Maint. | \$ 75.00     | Nucleus Courses        | Software & STEM    | \$ 4,500.00  |
| DAS State Accounting     | Network Services | \$ 317.87    | Shawn Oakes            | Mileage            | \$ 160.95    |
| Lindie DeBlois           | Mileage          | \$ 73.95     | Penworthy Company      | Supplies           | \$ 241.98    |
| ESU #13                  | Services         | \$ 9,114.63  | Perry Law Firm         | Legal Services     | \$ 10,234.00 |
| Frenchmen Valley         | Fuel             | \$ 2,370.52  | RCI Group II           | Service            | \$ 42.00     |
| Cody Gamble              | Mileage          | \$ 91.35     | Sagebrush              | Other              | \$ 340.00    |
| Gurley Diesel            | Repairs & Maint. | \$ 815.92    | School Nurse Supply    | Supplies           | \$ 156.01    |
| Homestead Market         | Other            | \$ 120.00    | SRMC - Clinic          | Service            | \$ 30.00     |
| Wendy Hansen             | Mileage          | \$ 82.65     | SRMC - Hospital        | OT Services        | \$ 1,340.90  |
| Highline                 | Telephone        | \$ 662.90    | Soar Pediatric Therapy | PT Services        | \$ 1,882.84  |
| JWPepper                 | Supplies         | \$ 112.40    | Uptown Image           | Other              | \$ 60.00     |
| Charles Jones            | Mileage          | \$ 285.65    | US Bank                | Miscellaneous      | \$ 590.86    |
| Faith Jones              | Mileage          | \$ 94.25     | Ashton Van Anne        | Mileage            | \$ 52.20     |
| MARC                     | Supplies         | \$ 637.01    | Linda Victory          | Mileage & Supplies | \$ 176.84    |
| Marick's Waste           | Trash Disposal   | \$ 151.00    | Village of Dalton      | Utilities          | \$ 502.49    |
| Matheson                 | Supplies         | \$ 154.15    | Village of Gurley      | Utilities          | \$ 796.45    |
| Matt McLaughlin          | Mileage & Phone  | \$ 495.85    | Voyager Sopris         | Supplies           | \$ 94.50     |
|                          |                  |              | Wheat Belt             | Utilities          | \$ 4,923.52  |
|                          | Column Total     | \$ 23,163.15 |                        | Column Total       | \$ 31,920.44 |
|                          |                  |              |                        | Monthly Total      | \$ 55,083.59 |



## What It Means to Be a Warrior

I hope this message finds you well and counting the days until spring. Often, we talk about "Warrior Way" as a slogan. But this winter, I sat in the bleachers and watched our Girls Basketball team turn that slogan into a masterclass on character. Through conversations with Shad and Michelle Benish, I was reminded of four pillars that define a true Warrior. This team didn't just play through a season; they lived out these values in a way that should make every member of the Leyton community proud.

### 1. Inner Strength and Dignity

*A quiet confidence and self-respect that refuses to be diminished by outside circumstances.*

The season began with a daunting question: Would we even have enough players to compete? Rather than folding, our students took ownership. They recruited in the hallways and worked every angle. When we were down to just five players after the first practice, they reached out to Aspen. Without a second thought, she found a ride home, grabbed some shoes, and joined the ranks that same day. That is the heart of a Warrior—not waiting for perfect conditions, but having the confidence to create your own path.

### 2. Sacrifice and Service

*Putting teammates, family, or a cause and the cause above yourself.*

With players at vastly different experience levels, Coach Cooper Michelman and Deb Wieser hammered home a vital truth: **"The boat don't go if we all don't row."** Our Warriors learned that the only way to succeed was to lift each other up during the struggles. By putting egos aside and serving the needs of the team, they transformed from a group of individuals into a unified force.

### 3. Honor and Integrity

*Maintaining discipline and valor, even in the face of adversity.*

It is easy to have integrity when you're winning; it is much harder when you start the season 0-9. Yet, our girls never hung their heads. While the shots weren't falling, the discipline never wavered. We saw it in **Macey's** leadership on the court in scoring as well as in consistent communication; in **Auvi's** relentless positive attitude and mental toughness; in the fierce, unyielding post play of **Jaylyn and Paige**; in **Aspen's** evolution into a defensive specialist; and in **Kennedy's** "never ever give up" attitude. They played with honor because they respected the game and each other.

### 4. Resilience and Discipline

*A "never-quit" mentality that endures hardship to maintain focus.*

The easy path would have been to accept defeat or quit. Instead, these Warriors doubled down. They won four of their next five games, earning the right to host Subdistricts—a feat no one would have predicted in November. They won their first Subdistrict game and fought through a heartbreaking finale against Potter-Dix.

## **A Community of Warriors**

We are truly blessed to be in a school setting surrounded by such amazing people. To our players: Thank you for the lessons you taught us from the court. To our community: Thank you for your unwavering support.

This season proved that being a **Leyton Warrior** isn't about the final score on the board—it's about the grit, the heart, and the integrity you show while getting there. On the drive home after the final game of the season my son and I were talking about the Warriors team, I told my son how proud I was of our Warriors and what they just accomplished....” We are not done yet” was his reply.

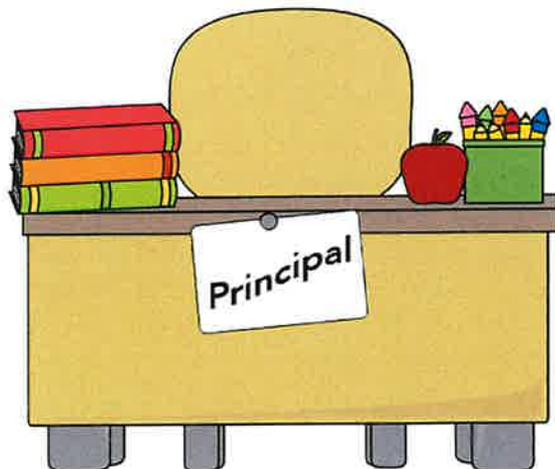
**Proud to be a Warrior,**

**Matt McLaughlin**  
**Superintendent**

## **Note From the Principal**

It seems like time is starting to fly by this school year, it seems like it was just yesterday that we were starting winter sports. The winter sports season is wrapping up; I would like to congratulate the student-athletes and coaches on their efforts at the junior high and high school levels. As a part of our school improvement process we as a school district will be sending out surveys, we would like to have a good response to those surveys as we want to have input and feedback from our parents and patrons. We are always looking for ways to improve how we do things at the schools and would like to have a high participation in these surveys, they will be coming to your emails through JMC. We still have some great activities that are going on, the Speech team is competing at several meets and preparing for Districts later in March. The FFA students are competing in contests and preparing for the State Convention at the end of March. We have great kids and we are doing great things in and out of the classroom. Our staff is working hard to make sure the students are getting the best from Leyton Schools. Until next time as always if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Go Warriors.

Charles Jones



LEYTON ELEMENTARY/JR HIGH GYM

**ONE SCHOOL-**

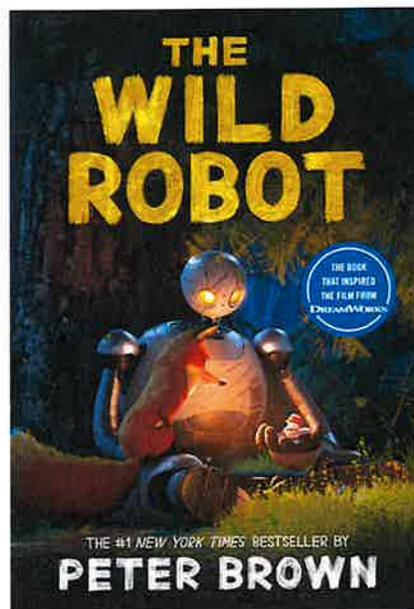
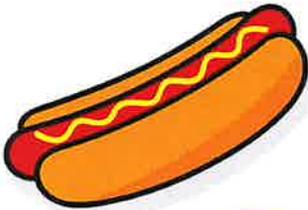
**ONE BOOK**

*Movie Night!*

*Everyone  
is Welcome!*

*Bring a  
friend!*

Join us to celebrate the culmination of  
One School-One Book and enjoy  
watching “The Wild Robot”



**Tuesday, March 24th**

**5:00-7:00 Concessions including  
pizza and hotdog meal deals!**

**5:45 Movie Time**

The movie has a full run time of 1 hour 42 minutes

Please join us for

# Speech & SWEETS



## 17 MARCH

Start at 6:00  
Leyton High School Multi-Purpose Room

**Speech Public Performance Night**  
Come support all of our hard work!





# LITTLE WARRIORS



## PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR!

We are accepting applications for ages 3-5.

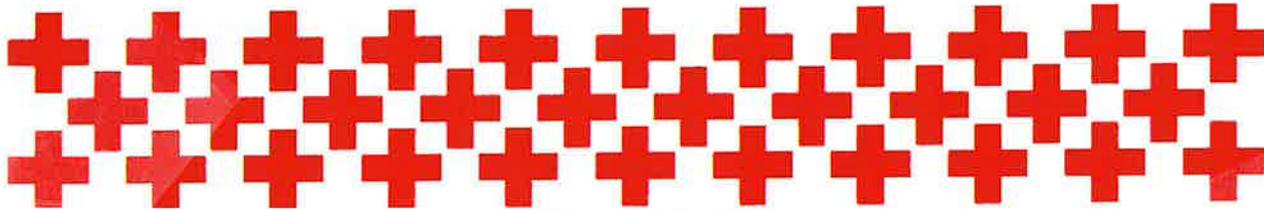
Please stop in the Gurley office for an application or email  
[heidi.rushman@leytonwarriors.org](mailto:heidi.rushman@leytonwarriors.org) or  
[angie.borgmann@leytonwarriors.org](mailto:angie.borgmann@leytonwarriors.org)

Any questions please call the school at 308-884-2247



# American Red Cross

*Give blood.* Help save lives.



## Blood Drive

Presented by

National Honor Society, Leyton Chapter

Please help us meet our goal of 35 units of blood!

The American Red Cross provides scholarships to NHS members if it is a successful drive.

**Thursday, March 26**

**9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Leyton High School Gym**

To make an appointment, call the school at 308-377-2301.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

©2017 The American National Red Cross

# DID YOU KNOW?

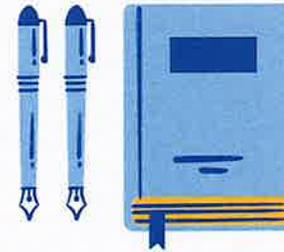
## TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

PHYLLIS D. GERKE GIFT



Western Nebraska  
Community College

SIDNEY CAMPUS



# LEYTON PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION

CONTACT LEYTON PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION FOR INFORMATION

TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANY GURLEY/ DALTON  
RESIDENT AND LEYTON ALUMNI WHO ARE CURRENTLY TAKING  
CLASSES AT WNCC SIDNEY CAMPUS OR APPLYING IN THE FUTURE.

# LEYTON HIGH SCHOOL STUCO PRESENTS

## DRESS TO IMPRESS

LEYTON STUCO WILL BE PROVIDING A FREE DRESS CLOSET FOR THOSE IN NEED OF A DRESS FOR FORMAL DANCES!

★ **Personal try-on sessions available at Leyton High School for formal dances**

★ **If a dress is borrowed and can be returned, please do return it so others can continue to enjoy it!**

★ **Dresses are located in Dalton at Leyton High School!**

★ **We are accepting all formal dress donations immediately!**

Contact [alison.haley@leytonwarriors.org](mailto:alison.haley@leytonwarriors.org) or 308-249-4198 for questions, fitting appointments, or to donate



A L L A R E W E L C O M E

# FOOD *pantry*

**first Saturday of every month**  
**8:30am-9:30am**

**COMMUNITY SHEPERDS OF DALTON & GURLEY**  
**404 FRANCIS STREET DALTON NE 69131**



MARCH



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

WELCOME TO THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR!!

Students must take at least 1/2 cup fruit or vegetable on their tray. Unlimited fruit and vegetables are offered daily. Flavored skim and 1% white milk is offered daily. An assortment of fresh and canned fruit are available every morning as well as fruit juice up to twice a week with breakfast. The school district provides a food service program that is designed to provide adequate nutrition and an educational experience for students. Leyton Public Schools is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

\*\*Menus are subject to change\*\*

|    | B=breakfast  | L=Lunch   | DB=Dalton breakfast   | GB=Gurley breakfast                             | DL=Dalton lunch   | GL=Gurley lunch |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|-----------------|
| 1  | 2  | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7               |
|    | B: Brk sandwich<br>L: Walking tacos, rice, corn                    | B: PBJ<br>L: Ckn tenders, fries                                 | B: Cheese omelet, bagel<br>GL: chefs choice<br>DL: Spaghetti, peas & garlic stick | B: Yogurt, muffin<br>L: Meatball sub, carrots   | B: Fr. Toast, sausage<br>L: Grilled Cheese, tomato soup |                 |
| 8  | 9  | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14              |
|    | B: Brk Burrito<br>L: HB/CB. Fries                                  | B: Waffle, Yogurt<br>L: CKN noodle soup, roll                   | B: Pancakes, sausage<br>L: Tacos, spanish ric, Corn                               | <b>NO SCHOOL</b>                                | <b>NO SCHOOL</b>  |                 |
| 15 | 16   | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21              |
|    | B: Scr. eggs, bagel<br>L: Ckn nuggets, mac & cheese, mixed veggies | B: Cereal , muffin<br>L: Tator tot casserole, green beans       | B: Pancake on a stick<br>L: Ckn sandwich, fries                                   | B: Bisc. & gravy<br>L: Beefy nacos, rice , corn | B: Brk sandwich<br>L: Pizza, peas                       |                 |
| 22 | 23   | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28              |
|    | B: Brk pizza<br>L: Ckn bacon ranch wrap, Calif. veggies            | B: Pancakes, sausage<br>L: Hot dog, fries                       | B: Sausage & ch. bagel<br>L: Hamb. gravy/ mashed potatoes                         | B: Chef's choice<br>L: Chili, cinn. roll        | B: Ch omelet, toast<br>L: Chef's choice                 |                 |
| 29 | 30   | 31  |   |   |   |                 |
|    | B: Brk Burrito<br>L: Sloppy Joes, green beans                      | B: Yogurt, bagel<br>L: Ckn fry stk, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll |   |   |   |                 |

\*\* This institution is an equal opportunity provider\*\*