

State of Nebraska
School Financing Review Commission
Minutes of the Thursday, August 12, 2025, Meeting
Nebraska Department of Education Office Building, State Board Room,
500 S. 84th Street, Lincoln, NE, 68510

Publicized notice of the meeting was given by posting notice on the Department of Education website and emailed to a list of news media, which gave the date, time, and location of the meeting.

1. Call to Order – Chairperson, Commission Brian L. Maher, called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

- a. Appointment of a temporary secretary – The chairperson appointed NDE staff member, Ryan Foor, to serve as temporary secretary.
- b. Roll call – Roll call showed the following members were present:

Tom Briese	Jason Dolliver	Ann Foster
Shavonna Holman	Grant Latimer	Lou Ann Linehan
Brian Maher	Aaron Plas	Keith Runge
John Schwartz	Sarah Scott	Liz Standish
Sen. Eliot Bostar	Sen. Jana Hughes	Sen. Dave Murman
(arrived at 8:07 a.m.)		(arrived at 8:04 a.m.)

The following members were absent:

Fred Meyer	Paul Turman
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- c. The chairperson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Announcement of the Open Meetings Act
The chairperson announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act information in the meeting room.
 3. Address to the Commission – Governor Jim Pillen
Governor Jim Pillen addressed the commission with opening remarks.
 4. Introductions of Commission Members
Commission members introduced themselves to the commission.

5. Adoption of Temporary Operating Policies

Motion by Linehan, second by Holman to adopt the temporary operating policies.

Briese	Yes	Dolliver	Yes
Foster	Yes	Holman	Yes
Latimer	Yes	Linehan	Yes
Maher	Yes	Meyer	Absent
Plas	Yes	Runge	Yes
Schwartz	Yes	Scott	Yes
Standish	Yes	Turman	Absent

The motion was adopted.

6. Motion by Briese, second by Schwartz that the chair appoint a committee of three members to draft permanent operating policies for the commission.

Foster	Yes	Holman	Yes
Latimer	Yes	Linehan	Yes
Maher	Yes	Meyer	Absent
Plas	Yes	Runge	Yes
Schwartz	Yes	Scott	Yes
Standish	Yes	Turman	Absent
Briese	Yes	Dolliver	Yes

The motion was adopted.

7. Review of Purpose and Charge of the Commission

The chairperson reviewed the statutory duties of the commission.

8. Election of Vice-Chairperson

The chairperson appointed Ryan Foor as teller. The chairperson opened nomination for vice-chairperson. Lou Ann Linehan nominated Tom Briese. Aaron Plas nominated John Schwartz. There being no further nominations, the chairperson closed nominations.

Vote 1:

The teller read the vote results:

- 12 votes were cast
- 7 votes were necessary for election
- 5 votes for Tom Briese
- 7 votes for John Schwartz

The tally was delivered to the chairperson who announced the result that John Schwartz was elected as vice-chairperson.

9. Overview of School Funding of the State

NDE staff members Brian Halstead and Bryce Wilson provided information on school finance history and the current status of school funding. The chairperson then led a small group discussion activity to discuss the goals and outcomes of the commission. Each group reported a summary of the discussion. The chairperson stated that the topic of goals and outcomes will continue at the next meeting.

10. Proposed Outline of 2025 Meetings and Activities

The chairperson indicated there would be a September meeting and stated that the first report of the commission is due to the legislature December 1, 2025.

11. Public Comment

Dave Welsch, representing Milford Public Schools, Milford, Nebraska, spoke in public comment.

12. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

The next meeting of the School Financing Review Commission will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska, date and time to be determined.