



EAST CENTRAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

February 19th, 2025

The board meeting of East Central Center for Exceptional Children was held on 2.19.25

Members Present: Board President, Jenna Helseth-Carrington, Natalie Becker-New Rockford-Sheyenne, Matt Lokemoen-Kensal, Laura Hager-New Rockford-Sheyenne, Amber Krapp-Pingree-Buchanan, Stacy Benz- Fessenden, Jordan Brown-Oberon, Janelle Helm-Carrington

Others Present: Ashly Wolsky- East Central Director, Melanie Quinton- East Central Business Manager, Teacher representative Laura Risovi

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Board President Mrs. Helseth, and a quorum was established.

Additions/ amendments: CD at Bank Forward, formal approval.

A motion was made by Laura Hager and seconded by Janelle Helm to approve January 15, 2025, board minutes. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Natalie Becker and seconded by Jordan Brown to approve February 12, 2025, negotiations special board meeting minutes. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Amber Krapp and seconded by Stacy Benz to approve the February 2025 financial report, January and February payroll reports as presented. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Amber Krapp to approve the February 2025 bills payable. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Directors Report:

Director Wolsky discussed the Joint Directors meeting in Mandan on January 23rd and the upcoming director's meeting at FPS on February 20th at the Explorer Academy.

A memo was sent by Director Wolsky on 1/17 to case managers on the breakdown of the duties between Transition Coordinator and high school case managers.

Today at 1:00 p.m. is the meeting with Laura Booth, School Law Attorney. These monthly meetings align with EC board meetings. Study Council board meeting follows Laura Booth.

Director Wolsky is set to present at the NDASA-Superintendents Spring 2025 in Valley City. The date is TBA based on legislation. Director Wolsky will share more information.

Preschool Screenings have started with Pingree Buchanan and Kensal completed. Director Wolsky noted that attendance at the screening does not automatically sign students up for preschool.

Director Wolsky discussed the Early Childhood Grant she applied for in the amount of \$10,000. EC was not approved for this grant as the funding isn't available to a Special Ed Unit only school districts.

Director Wolsky discussed the North Dakota Juvenile Justice grant she applied for. Funding was not approved for EC due to the large amount of requests. With \$500,000 available there were \$2.7 million dollars in requests.

The Pre-Employment Transition Grant is due March 21st, and we will be informed of funding by May 9th. Director Wolsky plans to submit proposal for continual funding to offset the cost of the Transition Coordinator position.

Director Wolsky applied for an Early Childhood Grant with the opportunity of being awarded \$3,000.

Director Wolsky discussed the fund balance decrease. It went down -3% in 2023-24 in it due to spending down the remaining ARP funds.

High-cost students were discussed by Director Wolsky, stating that we will be adding another student at Anne Carlsen Center for ESY 2025 and for the 2025-26 school year. Cost is roughly \$100,000 per year with approximately half reimbursed by the State (similar cost to a 1:1 para). We will also potentially be adding 2 or 3 more students to Ann Carlson for the 25-26 school year. Discussion was held on student transportation and costs associated with travel.

End of year items that are coming up: teacher evaluations, para evaluations, para return forms, negotiations, budget, staffing needs, etc. Director Wolsky will be requesting feedback at spring planning meetings with case managers.

Parent Surveys will be going out. Case managers are encouraged to reach out to parents to have these completed.

Fessenden-Bowdon has granted their Behavioral Health funds to EC in the amount of \$13,000. Director Wolsky will come up with a plan for how to use these funds to best serve the unit.

There was a Behavioral Health Q & A with Brooke Tayer from SEEC on 2/18 2-2:30. This was held to help answer any questions on the flow of Medicaid and Behavioral Health funds. Janelle Helm asked to see numbers as to what the budget would look like if BH funds stayed with EC instead of the districts.

Board President Helseth and Director Wolsky visited Midkota schools on 2/14/2025. Touring both the elementary and high school, meeting with staff and students. Discussion was held on the staff and questions they had about the potential merger. Director Wolsky also discussed plans for students. Board discussion was held on the pros and cons of adding the additional district.

Board president report:

Director Wolsky review needs to be held at a special board meeting due to the timeline, it will be held via Zoom on 3/3/25 at 9:30am.

Board Action:

A motion was made by Jordan Brown and seconded by Matt Lokemoen to approve the CD at Bank Forward, information was informally approved via email on 1/30/25. With no further discussion, motion carried.

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Natalie Becker to remove Shelly Ehni and Vickie Becvar off the East Central BOB account at Bank Forward and to add Katie Eggermont and Melanie Quinton. With no further discussion, motion carried.

Stacy Benz and Jenna Helseth have been appointed as the East Central Board negotiators for upcoming negotiations.

Behavioral Health Grant monies and the flow into the unit were discussed.

A motion was made by Stacy Benz and seconded by Jordan Brown to approve the opening of the position to hire a full-time School Psychologist for the East Central Unit. This position will be shared with all schools in the unit with the potential for up to 2.5 days being contracted out to other schools. With no further discussion, motion carried.

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Amber Krapp to approve Midkota to join East Central Special Education Unit. A roll call vote was held:

Laura Hager: Yes

Amber Krapp: Yes

Matt Lokemoen: Yes

Jordan Brown: Yes

Stacy Benz: Yes

Jenna Helseth: Yes

Janelle Helm: Yes

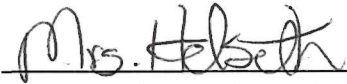
Natalie Becker: Yes

With a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Negotiations Board Meeting and Director Evaluation zoom: March 3rd, 2025, at 9:30am.

The Next Board Meeting date: March 19, 2025, at 10:00 am.

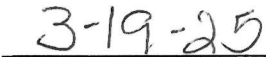
The meeting adjourned at 11:41 p.m.



Mrs. Helseth, Board President



Melanie Quinton, Business Manager



Date Approved