



Negotiations Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: April 2nd, 2025

TIME: 3:32p

WHERE: Zoom

TOPIC: Ground Rules

Negotiators: Jenna Helseth, Stacy Benz, Lindsay Widicker, Teresa Risovi

Others Present: Ashly Wolsky, Melanie Quinton, Lauren Pederson (Intern under Jenna Helseth)

Meeting Called to order by Board President Jenna Helseth at 3:32 pm.

1. NEGOTIATIONS TEAMS

Board Team Members

Jenna Helseth

Stacy Benz

Teacher Team Members

Lindsay Widicker

Teresa Risovi

2. **DIRECTOR and BUSINESS MANAGER ROLE:** Serve as resource people to both board and teacher teams.
3. **MEETING DATES, NOTICES AND LOCATION:** The first negotiations meeting will be held within 30 days of the board recognizing the representative organization, unless otherwise agreed to by the board and the representative organization. Meetings will be held via Zoom unless otherwise noted.
4. **LENGTH OF MEETINGS:** Meetings will be scheduled for **60** minutes, unless both parties agree to go beyond this time limit.
5. **MEETING DATES:** Meeting dates will begin May 7th and continue every other week or weekly via zoom unless otherwise agreed upon.
6. **COMPLETION DEADLINE:** The parties recognize that in accordance with North Dakota law negotiations must be completed no later than July 1. If the parties do not reach agreement by the deadline, an impasse exists by operation of law.
7. **HANDOUTS:** Distributed to all board and teacher negotiators at least **1** days prior to the meeting at which the information is to be discussed.
8. **CHAIRPERSON:** The position of chairperson for each meeting will alternate between a member of the board negotiations committee and a member of the teachers' representatives.

9. **CAUCUS:** The board negotiations committee and teachers' representatives have a right to caucus, outside of each other's presence. The board or any authorized subcommittee of the board may hold an executive session under section 15.1-16-22 to discuss negotiating strategies. Caucus is included in the weekly allocated time.
10. **MINUTES:** The board negotiations committee or business manager shall prepare minutes of the negotiations meetings and distribute them by the deadline for meeting handouts. The teachers' representatives may also take minutes. Minutes are subject to both teams' approval before they become official.
11. **AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:** Before adjournment of a negotiations meeting, an agenda must be prepared for the next meeting. Items may be added to the agenda up to **1** days prior to the next meeting or upon consent of the board negotiations committee and teachers' representatives. Agenda items may not be added at the meeting.
12. **MEDIA RELEASES:** All releases must be made jointly, either in the presence of both spokespersons or by a joint conference call.
13. **DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS:** All proposals must be exchanged in writing at the first negotiations meeting. Thereafter, proposals on additional issues may be added only with agreement of both the board negotiations committee and teachers' representatives.
14. **NEGOTIATING AND AGREEING TO PROPOSALS:** The board negotiations committee and teachers' representatives shall determine by coin toss who selects the first item to be discussed. Thereafter, the parties shall alternate selecting items until all items have been discussed. As agreement is reached on an item, the language must be initialed and dated by the board's and teachers' chief negotiators. Any initialed item may only be reopened for amendment by consent of the board negotiations committee and teachers' representatives. Such agreements are only tentative until negotiations are complete and the entire agreement is ratified by both sides or until the Board issues unilateral contracts. Items that are not agreed upon must be tabled and given reconsideration only after all other items have been considered.
15. **TABLED ITEMS:** Parties will make a good faith effort to reach agreement on tabled items. If agreement cannot be reached, parties agree to initiate the proceedings for impasse.
16. **RATIFICATION:** Both parties have five business days to ratify the agreement. If either party fails to ratify the agreement by this deadline, it shall inform the other party of the items(s) still in contention. This ratification rule does not prevent declaration of impasse or issuance of unilateral contracts.

THESE GROUND RULES ARE AGREED TO BY BOTH TEAMS ON

Upcoming Meetings:

May 7th at 3:30p via Zoom

East Central Board:

Jenna Helseth
Jenna Helseth (May 13, 2025 09:00 CDT)

Stacy Benz
Stacy Benz (May 8, 2025 10:40 CDT)

Date:

13/05/25

05/08/2025

Teachers Team Members:

Lindsay
Lindsay (May 8, 2025 13:16 CDT)

Teresa
Teresa Risovi (May 8, 2025 10:45 CDT)

08/05/25

05/08/25