



Negotiations Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: May 7th, 2025

TIME: 3:32pm

WHERE: Zoom

TOPIC: Negotiations

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

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.

Amotion was made by Lindsay Widicker to start the meeting, Teresa Risoi seconded. With no further discussion motion carried.

Jenna Helseth did a coin toss, Lindsay Widicker called heads, it was heads, teachers chose to go first.

Teachers: Salary for Teachers and Allied Health Professionals

Lindsay Widicker stated that they are requesting the salary structure be modified to match NRS base salary with an additional 3% increase for 2025-26 and a 2.5% increase for 2026-27. Jenna Helseth stated that legislature ended with a 2.5% increase per pupil.

Board of Directors: Dental Insurance

Jenna Helseth stated that not all units offer full paid dental insurance, is this something the teachers are willing to give up in order to focus the funds somewhere else?

Teachers: Lunch Breaks Paid If Missed

Lindsay Widicker stated other schools are compensated for missed lunches and many teachers are missing their lunch breaks due to no sub or student behaviors that flow into teachers lunch periods.

Jenna Helseth discussed this will be something that is going to be hard to monitor and to verify who and why a lunch break was missed. At board level this was not something the board was in favor of. Lindsay stated she would like to go through all the items and come back to the next meeting.

Board of Directors: Health Insurance

The board of directors offers health insurance, that is a very good plan with a low deductible, keeping it around the same cost to teachers for the last 5-8 years. The board is currently paying 53% for plus dependent and 75% for family. Stacy noted that the board wants to move towards a single plan only.

Jenna Helseth discussed the 9.6% increase to the health insurance and meeting somewhere in the middle with a pay raise for the teachers.

Teachers: Preps Paid If Missed Due to Staffing/Student Needs

Lindsay Widicker discussed how many teachers are missing prep time due to student needs. For example testing for a student takes on average 4 prep times. Jenna Helseth stated this will be hard to monitor.

Board of Directors: 2 Year Contract

Jenna Helseth stated that the board would like to go into a 2 year contract versus doing this yearly, but also taking into consideration that we will not know the increase to next year's health insurance.

Teachers: One extra personal day

Teachers are requesting 1 additional personal day. Emergency leave was also discussed. Ashly Wolsky noted that the policy changed last time with negotiations and now states that all personal days must be extinguished before using the flex day or the 3 emergency days. Lindsay Widicker stated that this would be an extra personal day, plus the 3 current personal days plus 1 flex day. Stacy Benz noted that the board is not in favor of an additional personal day.

Teachers: Day 1 Services

Some schools have requested services to start on the first day of school. Jenna Helseth commented about the legalities of getting minutes in according to the IEP. Ashly Wolsky said staff should be touching base with regular ed teachers day 1. Ashly Wolsky also noted in the past it was up to a week to implement services, she stated she doesn't see this as a problem now days as services are starting in an appropriate amount of time.

Teachers: Paperwork/Meeting hours (22 yearly)

Lindsay Widicker stated that the grant that was obtained this year for paperwork was a good thing for teachers that have larger caseloads. Lindsay Widicker also noted there is more hours that come up with testing and special ed than regular ed students. Ashly Wolsky noted about the grant paperwork hours that some used the hours quickly and some did not use the hours at all. Ashly noted that this does not seem to be a need all around. Ashly Wolsky recommends using \$6000 for the grant for paperwork compliance and \$4000 towards teachers with higher caseloads and not distribute the grant hours evenly. If a request comes to Ashly Wolsky for a paperwork day a majority of the time it has been approved. Jenna Helseth stated this is not something that should go into the negotiated agreement. Lindsay stated she will bring this back to the union that this is an option available. Ashly Wolsky noted that some paperwork days were granted in the past but she did not always see an increase in paperwork compliance.

Teachers: Hourly rate increase

Lindsay Widicker stated that the current rate for work outside of the contract is \$25. Teachers would like to move that to \$35. Jenna Helseth stated that she would like to sign off on this agreement today. Stacy Benz stated she would like to discuss outside of the meeting and come back with a response. Ashly Wolsky noted that SPED teachers do have more hours outside of contract time than regular education teachers. Melanie Quinton can pull the total amount that EC pays for outside of contract time.

Upcoming Meetings: Wednesday May 14th.

Meeting Adjourned May 7th at 4:30p via Zoom.

East Central Board:

Jenna Helseth Date: 14/05/25
Jenna Helseth (May 14, 2025 16:12 CDT)

SBG Date: 15/05/25
Shay Bink (May 15, 2025 16:27 CDT)

Teachers Team Members:

Lindsay Hedicker Date: 14/05/25
Lindsay Hedicker (May 14, 2025 19:35 CDT)

Teresa Risov Date: 15/05/25
Teresa Risov (May 15, 2025 08:36 CDT)