



EAST CENTRAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

April 16th, 2025

The board meeting of East Central Center for Exceptional Children was held on 4.16.25.

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

Zoom: Jordan Brown-Oberon

Others Via Zoom: Teacher representative, Liz Ihiringer

Others Present: Ashly Wolsky- East Central Director, Melanie Quinton- East Central Business Manager

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Board President Mrs. Helseth, and a quorum was established.

Additions/ amendments: Board Action Director Salary Increase to reflect bringing on Midkota

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Stacy Benz to approve March 19, 2025, board minutes. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Amber Krapp and seconded by Laura Hager to approve Negotiations Board Meeting April 2nd, 2025, board minutes. With no further discussion, the motion failed as these minutes have not yet been approved by the negotiations team.

A motion was made by Laura Hager and seconded by Janelle Helm to approve the April 2025 financial report as presented. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Amber Krapp to approve the April 2025 bills payable and April 2025 payroll reports. Discussion was held on the Cooperstown newspaper and the help wanted ads. Laura Hager suggested having them write an article. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Directors Report:

All State Directors meeting was held Carrington on March 27th. Director Wolsky gave an update on some of the discussions on statewide initiatives. Steve Snow is leading Infinite Campus-ND DPI committee/pilot program, the goal is to move to a single system. PowerSchool & TieNet will merge to Infinite Campus. This will allow special education and general education to see all the records, show accommodations, IEP, etc. The Pilot program is starting for the 2025-26 school year and will rollout Statewide for the 2026-27 school year. Also included will be an app for parents and a discussion to go paperless for IEP paperwork. The next step is reworking the whole system, including student contracts according to Steve Snow, ND DPI.

Laura Booth, School Law Attorney today. There is one more meeting for the school year scheduled. Laura Hager asked who pays for her services, Director Wolsky stated it flows through the study council.

Carrington and NRS EC case managers asked to participate in a GoalBook survey for Johns Hopkins. Director Wolsky will share the results after it is published.

Parent Survey-Indicator 8, Director Wolsky is hoping for 100% participation from parents. Case managers please keep pushing out surveys.

Preschool screenings data has been completed. Mariah Weber EC's Preschool teacher did a great job with the screenings for her first year according to Director Wolsky. See attachment with complete information on the results. Laura Hager inquired about how many speech referrals we at NRS based on the evals. Director Wolsky discussed how public health is involved to send us referrals.

EC received an Early Childhood Grant was received in the amount of \$3,000. These funds have been used for Autism testing materials.

Behavioral Health monies in the amount of \$13,711.02 was submitted and approved to purchase testing materials.

Teacher evaluations have been completed, signed, and placed in employee files.

Business Manager and Transition Coordinator evaluations have been completed.

Paraprofessional evaluations to be completed by case managers, feedback requested from district admin.

Special Ed Report Cards have been presented. Director Wolsky worked with NDDPI to make sure the report cards were correct. Directly Wolsky noted there was a year of high dropouts that affected the reports.

Director Wolsky added additional behavior training for paraprofessionals through Special Ed Gurus for the 2025-26 school year.

Director Wolsky is exploring START UPS which is a Transition Curriculum for 5th-12th grade and ages 18-21, in hopes it would be state funded. Also exploring SOLAR curriculum for social skills.

An additional paraprofessional has been hired in Oberon for a 1:1 student. Carrington also needed an immediate paraprofessional that were not projected in the 2024-25 budget.

The phone number 988 is not just for suicide, it is also a mobile crisis line that provides teletherapy, crisis team, and police services (DL and Jamestown). There is currently no school district usage according to ND DPI. To keep the funding the line needs to be used.

East Central will be recognizing teachers and professionals for their years of service.

All staff Safety Care Training will be taking place in June instead of August. Director Wolsky stated if any other district staff want to join, they are welcome.

Director Wolsky and East Central will be hosting a professional development and book study this summer on the book The Anxious Generation, credit opportunity provided.

Staffing 2025-26 is in progress, included in the packet is the draft staff list. (Subject to change).

Para to teacher pipeline programming can be used Statewide at any college of choice. There is a new SPED Technician program through UND.

Moments in time Medicaid reimbursement for teachers and administrators has been used throughout the year. Reminder to staff to complete surveys when they arrive via email to receive funding.

Director Wolsky stated there has been communication a suggestion from with Ann Carlson for a remote Autism program to service our students locally due to the number of student and the high needs. Director Wolsky is not recommending this currently due to high staffing needs.

Board president report:

Board Action:

A motion was made by Stacy Benz and seconded by Janelle Helm to approve a \$15,000 stipend in addition to current salary schedule for SLP's for the 2025-26 school year and beyond. Director Wolsky discussed the needs of the unit and trying to recruit SLP's to prevent the need for contracted services. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

A motion was made by Natalie Becker and seconded by Janelle Helm to approve the resignation of McKenzie Davis. With no further discussion, the motion carried. McKenzie will remain within the unit in a different role.

Section 15.1-16-22 - Negotiation strategy and instructions - Executive session


A motion was made by Natalie Becker and seconded by Janelle Helm to enter executive session, starting at 10:57am. With no further discussion the motion carried.


11:12a.m. Executive session ended.

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Amber Krapp to approve the increase of Director Wolsky salary to \$119,340 for taking on Midkota. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

The Next Board Meeting date: April 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.


Mrs. Helseth, Board President
Melanie Quinton, Business Manager


Date Approved