



EAST CENTRAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

May 20th, 2025

The board meeting of East Central Center for Exceptional Children was held on 5.20.25.

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

Absent: Jordan Brown-Oberon, Amber Krapp-Pingree-Buchanan

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Board President Mrs. Helseth, and a quorum was established.

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

A motion was made by Stacy Benz and seconded by Janelle Helm to enter Executive session, starting at 10:03 am with no further discussion the motion carried.

Natalie Becker: Yes

Laura Hager: Yes

Matt Lokemoen: Yes

Stacy Benz: Yes

Jenna Helseth: Yes

Janelle Helm: Yes

11:35 am Executive session ended.

Additions/ amendments: None.

A motion was made by Stacy Benz and seconded by Laura Hager to approve April 16, 2025, board minutes. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Matt Lokemoen to approve the May 2025 bills payable and May 2025 payroll reports. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Directors Report:

Director Wolsky will attend the last meeting for the year with Laura Booth tomorrow with Study Council to follow.

Regional Directors meeting on May 8th in Wahpeton was cancelled due to low attendance.

Director Wolsky plans to attend Summer Leadership on June 3rd and 4th in Bismarck, in addition to Study Council on June 3rd.

There is a free Behavioral Health Workshop June 4th and 5th at the Bismarck Event Center.

Director Wolsky discussed SOLAR: Social Learning and Emotional Regulation curriculum. The unit will be doing a 3-week trial in May along with virtual training. Director Wolsky will get login information out when available.

Director Wolsky recommends adding a paperwork compliance position (case manager) to address the Valid and Reliable Indicator using some Discretionary Grant monies.

Director Wolsky recommends paying East Centrals Safety Care trainers at a daily rate of \$350 a day versus the \$25 an hour pay. This will provide incentive to maintain the trainer certificate.

Mandatory Safety Care Training is being switched from August to June this year; it is an 8 hour training course and required for all teachers and paraprofessionals.

June 10th: 7am-4pm Carrington and Kensal (Carrington library)

June 11th: 7am-4pm NRS, Midkota, and Oberon (EC)

June 12th: 7am-4pm FB and PB (EC)

Director Wolsky will be hosting a Book Study PD on June 26th: Anxious Generation. This is a credit opportunity for case managers and team building for those who attend. If there are any other staff that would like to earn the credit reach out to Director Wolsky.

Director Wolsky discussed the 4th quarter progress and Unit wide data:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wWwC-22RauB_h6UX-2FlfbcV0R3e09v4PpUgny7l1uA/edit?usp=sharing

ESY: Extended School year schedule and staffing is being worked on among Director Wolsky and the case managers. They will determine if students qualify based on regression, recoupment, and whether the student is on the verge of a learning breakthrough.

Director Wolsky stated there is currently 6 students accepted to ACC for the 2025-26 school year, these are high-cost students we will need to budget for.

Director Wolsky and the case managers have completed spring planning meetings in preparation for the 2025-26 school year.

Staffing 2025-26:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xEAdAz_Z957GtmkAOgvFuK57P9LIBz00UrmBgkH8Lh0/edit?usp=sharing

EC currently has 3 staff in the Para to Teacher Pipeline program, two are in Carrington and one is in Midkota filling a teacher role.

Director Wolsky's schedule for the remainder of the year and summer:

Last day in the office 5/30.

Summer Leadership June 2-4th-Bismarck.

Safety Care training June 10th-Carrington.

EC board meeting June 18th. This date conflicts with NDCEL conference which is 16-17-19

EC PD June 26th in Jamestown.

6 days in the summer of work will shift to August days off, some days will include virtual days.

Board president report:

Happy Teacher and Paraprofessional Appreciation week (May 5th)

Vickie Becvar, Transition Coordinator retirement party was Friday, May 2nd at the Eagles.

Thank you to the current board members that have served on EC board for the 2024-25 school year.

Negotiations meetings were held every Wednesday thus far and were completed negotiations May 16th, 2025.

Board Action:

A motion was made by Natalie Becker and seconded by Laura Hager to approve the 2025-27 Teacher Negotiated Agreement. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Para Professional and substitute wage increase will move to the June board meeting.


A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Laura Hager to approve the Directors 2-year contract. Year 1: \$123,000 and year 2: \$126,000 adding 5 additional remote work days in the summer and 2 remote days during the school year. With no further discussion, the motion carried. The board notes that they are very appreciative of Director Wolsky and her work.

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Natalie Becker to approve Business Managers Midkota \$34 work agreement. They also approved Year 1 \$35 (2025-26) and year 2 \$36 (2026-27) work agreement that includes 1 additional sick day and 1 additional vacation each year. Board President Helseth noted that the board is very appreciative of Melanie's hard work, with no further discussion, the motion carried.

The Next Board Meeting date: June 11th, 2025, at 1:00 pm.

No July Board Meeting, two meetings in August: 7th and 27th at 10:00 am.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm


Mrs. Helseth, Board President
Melanie Quinton, Business Manager
Date Approved