



EAST CENTRAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

September 23, 2025

The board meeting of East Central Center for Exceptional Children was held on 9.23.25.

Members Present: Jenna Helseth-Carrington, Board President Lindsay Widicker-Fessenden-Bowdon, Janelle Helm-Carrington, Kristi Halvorson-Midkota, Matt Lokemoen-Kensal, Natalie Becker-New Rockford-Sheyenne, Laura Hager-New Rockford-Sheyenne

Zoom: Jordan Brown-Oberon

Absent: Chris Triggs-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 10:11 am by Board President Lindsay Widicker, and a quorum was established.

Additions/ amendments: None

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Laura Hager to approve August 27th, 2025, board minutes. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Janelle Helm to approve the September bills presented including payroll. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Directors Report:

ND DPI is rolling out a new initiative, called Core plus more with 3 best practices: 1-importance of core instruction 2-the need for extra time (interventions) 3-highly skilled, content strong teachers. Special Education should be above and beyond this to increase student success in the regular education classroom.

Progress reports need to be given quarterly and/or according to the IEP. They need to be spaced throughout the four quarters of the year. They cannot be provided at the end of the year. (4 quarters)

Focus Monitoring will happen now in 2031-32. East Central/Carrington had been 1 of 3 chosen to go through the Specia Ed bootcamp, Director Wolsky and Jenna Helseth attended the meeting. Director Wolsky discussed the data that was reviewed at the meeting and how it compares to the state average and how to improve student service to prevent a negative mark on reports cards.

All new teachers will need to take the science of reading training, Director Wolsky stated that districts should include East Central staff.

Director Wolsky discussed the new cell phones policy and IEPs, legal guidance will be provided for recommendation.

New disability name is: ED (Emotional Disturbance to Emotional Disability) and HI (Hearing impairment to Deaf and Hard of Hearing).

EC was 1 of the 12 units/districts across the state that passed the Transition Indicator, the goal is to continue high compliance rates with our Transition Coordinator position.

NDAA (alternative assessment) may negatively impact in the state student who has desires to attend any college coursework. Only 1% of the students should be taking the alternative assessment and can be taken twice per the new guidelines. Director Wolsky discussed with Ann Carlsen Center about making sure students attending ACC are taking a state assessment, along with other alternative schools in the state. Medical Waivers are an option if applicable. ND DPI contact for NDSA & NDAF questions: Maggie Williams.

ND DPI Assistive Technology Builders Assessment (by request), will work with school teams and special education teachers with assistive technology. Schools need to reach out to NDDPI to request assistance.

Indicator 9 & 10 EC passed disproportionate racial/ethnic groups.

Infinite Campus is going to carryover 7 years of TieNet documents. Attachments will not automatically carry over. Cum reviews are recommended prior to the change over.

Shifting federal requirements comes from OSEP and down to the state. ND DPI stated OSEP may shut down as control will be handed over to the state. ND DPI: Lacey Long & Maggie Williams will keep us up to date

Transition Coordinator, Tina Oatis, will start October 1st. She will work with Jennifer Updike from NDDPI on training and will also connect with other Transition Coordinators across the state.

ND DPI recommendation is to ensure that any IEP accommodations are being met that they include the regular Ed teacher with the lesson plans.

Peaceful Approach Navigating Challenging Behaviors is a live interactive training that is available for early childhood professionals and community members. It will take about an hour to complete, there are several titles Director Wolsky discussed.

Zoom link: <https://mayvillestate.zoom.us/j/89985268740>

Registration link: <https://buytickets.at/dhhs/1774461>

Paraprofessional Training Project was discussed by Director Wolsky. This project is put on by NDDPI with multiple courses to pick from.

Child Count is due December 1st, Director Wolsky reminded that IEPs need to be completed prior to Dec 1st so funding for that student is available.

Parent consents and provider consents are due for Medicaid at the beginning of the year, Medicaid behavioral health funding. Medicaid Admin billing with the moment in time studies are happening for teachers and admin to increase funding.

GoalBook training is being held in Jamestown on 10/21/25 for new case managers. Ann Carlson also invited East Central teachers and therapist to attend their professional development, Joy Lab on Martin Luther King Day in January.

Compliance report:

Megan Thompson gave a report on paperwork compliance. As a mentor Megan is having weekly meetings with the teachers. They are currently training on Woodcock Johnson. Returning teachers are working on improving usage of GoalBook. The August paperwork was 54.5% complete and September was 90.9%. Progress reports are due October 10th. Director Wolsky stated that teachers who meet compliance will go a into drawing for a door prize.

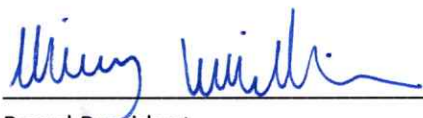
Board Action:

A motion was made by Natalie Becker and seconded by Matt Lokeomoen to approve the destruction of records: IEP Student information, letters were sent 8/12/25 for destruction 9/17/25. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Policy Committee meeting is September 30th committee members consist of Ashly Wolsky, Lindsay Widicker, Jenna Helseth, Natalie Becker and Melanie Quinton.

The next board meeting date: October 14th at 10:00 am.

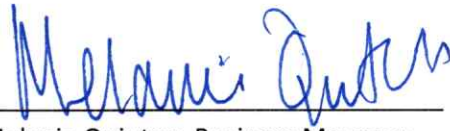
The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.



Board President



Date Approved



Melanie Quinton, Business Manager