



**EAST CENTRAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

**JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**The board meeting of East Central Center for Exceptional Children was held on 1.20.26**

**Members Present:**

- (President) Lindsay Widicker, Fessenden-Bowdon
- Natalie Becker-New Rockford-Sheyenne
- (Vice President) Janelle Helm-Carrington
- Laura Hager-New Rockford-Sheyenne
- Matt Lokemoen-Kensal
- Kristi Halvorson-Midkota
- Jenna Helseth-Carrington

**Zoom:** Jordan Brown, Oberon

**Absent:** Chris Triggs-, Pingree-Buchanan

**Others Present:**

- Ashly Wolsky, East Central Director
- Melanie Quinton, East Central Business Manager
- Megan Thompson, East Central Teacher Representative

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm by Board President Lindsay Widicker, and a quorum was established.

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Natalie Becker to approve December 17, 2025 board minutes. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held.

- Laura Hager-Aye
- Kristi Halvorson-Aye
- Matt Lokemoen-Aye
- Jordan Brown-Aye
- Lindsay Widicker-Aye
- Jenna Helseth-Aye

- Janelle Helm-Aye

- Natalie Becker-Aye

The motion passed (8-0).

A motion was made by Kristi Halvorson and seconded by Janelle Helm to approve the Finance Committee Meeting minutes from January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Jenna Helseth noted our first meeting was going over the list of items presented to the committee such as fund balance and cash incentive in lieu of health insurance. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held.

- Matt Lokemoen-Aye
- Jordan Brown-Aye
- Lindsay Widicker-Aye
- Jenna Helseth-Aye

- Janelle Helm-Aye
- Natalie Becker-Aye
- Laura Hager-Aye
- Kristi Halvorson-Aye

The motion passed (8-0).

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Laura Hager to approve the recommendation of the Sick Leave Bank Committee Meeting minutes from January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The board approved the request for 4 days of leave from the Sick Leave bank effective February 17<sup>th</sup> through February 20<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was held on how the sick bank is set up and how employees contribute to it. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held.

- Jordan Brown-Aye
- Lindsay Widicker-Aye
- Jenna Helseth-Aye
- Janelle Helm-Aye

- Natalie Becker-Aye
- Laura Hager-Aye
- Kristi Halvorson-Aye
- Matt Lokemoen-Aye

The motion passed (8-0).

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Janelle Helm to approve the January 2026 financial report as presented. Assessments were discussed and open enrollee line. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held.

- Kristi Halvorson-Aye
- Matt Lokemoen-Aye
- Jordan Brown-Aye
- Lindsay Widicker-Aye

- Jenna Helseth-Aye
- Janelle Helm-Aye
- Natalie Becker-Aye
- Laura Hager-Aye

The motion passed (8-0).

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Natalie Becker to approve the January bills presented, including payroll. Discussion was held on electrical work that was done in Pre-K hallway. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held.

- Matt Lokemoen-Aye
- Jordan Brown-Aye
- Lindsay Widicker-Aye
- Jenna Helseth-Aye
- Janelle Helm-Aye
- Natalie Becker-Aye
- Laura Hager-Aye
- Kristi Halvorson-Aye

The motion passed (8-0).

### **Directors Report:**

Director Wolsky shared that ND DPI visited Carrington on January 7<sup>th</sup> which entailed file reviews, interviews and observation. Director Wolsky said the findings came out successfully, with minor changes recommended and no need for an improvement plan. Janelle Helm noted that the feedback between ND DPI and the school district was positive. The next review for the Unit will be in 2032.

EC Certified staff visited Ann Carlsen Center on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> for professional development, participating in: Joy Lab. Director Wolsky stated it was a great day and positive experience to connect with ACC and understanding that even on hard days to find the joy.

Director Wolsky requested certified staff give updated schedules and caseloads in preparation for the 2026-27 school year.

Preschool screenings are scheduled for all districts in the unit; sign up information has been provided to each community.

Teacher evaluations are underway according to Director Wolsky and will be completed in April. Paraprofessional evaluations will be completed by case managers.

Director Wolsky's Regional Directors meeting is for February 17<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

Director Wolsky discussed attending the National CEC Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah in March.

A long-term sub has been secured for speech in Carrington and Pingree-Buchanan this spring for a staff member who is out on FMLA starting March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, through the end of the 25-26 School year.

A technology rotation was discussed for the following employees: Business manager, Preschool teacher, School Psychologist and Transition Coordinator through East Central.

**Other:**

Finance Committee meeting has reconvened, discussing key elements that impact the special education unit such as students placed at a separate school and the reimbursement provided to the district/unit. The committee also reviewed: Fund balance %, Transportation cost to ACC, ADM, 5% of shared cost in budget formula for direct billing, In-Lui of health insurance, an Autism room housed within the EC unit.

Child Count was submitted by Director Wolsky on 1/6/26 with 164 students.

**East Central Child Count**

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Carrington	55	60	57	55	56	57	72	63	74	63
Fessenden-Bowdon	26	33	26	28	23	23	22	24	24	22
Kensal	7	5	8	7	5	0	0	7	7	8
New Rockford-Sheyenne	50	39	51	46	68	68	59	54	46	40
Oberon	9	8	6	7	8		0	5	6	6
Pingree-Buchanna	13	14	13	14	15	15	16	14	13	13
Midkota										12
Total	160	159	161	157	175	163	169	167	170	164
Affidavit Totals	160	159	161	150	176	180	180	167	170	164

State Per Diem mileage rate has increased from .70 to .725 cents on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

Paperwork Compliance is 100% for December. Director Wolsky discussed MTSS and referrals at the district as a key factor to maintaining an obtainable amount of referrals and reassessments.

Transition supplies such as Crockpot, microwave, pots & pans, laundry basket, can opener, measuring cups and a tool kit for graduating seniors were purchased with donations from BOB: Best of Buddies, which is given to EC from the local communities. Case managers will be working with transition students to learn how to use these items and providing them to students.

2023-24 Behavioral Health Audit was completed, and EC was notified today of compliance.

House Bill 2180 regarding Public Participation at Board Meeting and East Central Policy BCBA- Public Participation at Board Meetings were discussed. Roll call votes will now be done moving forward.

**Board Action:**

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Laura Hager to approve the destruction of records. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held.

- Lindsay Widicker-Aye
- Jenna Helseth-Aye
- Janelle Helm-Aye
- Natalie Becker-Aye

- Laura Hager-Aye
- Kristi Halvorson-Aye

- Matt Lokemoen-Aye
- Jordan Brown-Aye

The motion passed (8-0).

Next board meeting date: Wednesday, February 18th, 2026, at 10 a.m. at East Central.

Next Finance Committee meeting Tuesday, February 24th, 2026, at 10 a.m. at East Central.

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.

  
Lindsay Widicker (Feb 18, 2026 13:41:31 CST)

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Lindsay Widicker, Board President

02/18/26

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Date Approved



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Melanie Quinton, Business Manager