



EAST CENTRAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

February 18th, 2026

The board meeting of East Central Center for Exceptional Children was held on 2.18.26

Members Present Via Zoom:

- (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-Joined 11:30, missed 2 votes
- Jenna Helseth-Carrington

Absent:

- Jordan Brown-Oberon
- Chris Triggs-Pingree-Buchanan

Others Present Via Zoom:

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

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 am by Board President Lindsay Widicker, and a quorum was established.

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Natalie Becker to approve January 20, 2026, board minutes. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held.

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|------------------------|----------------------|
| • Laura Hager-Aye | • Jenna Helseth-Aye |
| • Matt Lokemoen-Aye | • Janelle Helm-Aye |
| • Lindsay Widicker-Aye | • Natalie Becker-Aye |

The motion passed (6-0).

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Janelle Helm to approve the February 2026 financial report as presented. Jenna Helseth asked about speech health insurance and retirement budgets. Assessments were discussed and open enrollee GL line. Information regarding the inquiries will be reviewed and additional information will be provided to the board via email for clarification. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held.

- Matt Lokemoen-Aye
- Lindsay Widicker-Aye
- Jenna Helseth-Aye
- Janelle Helm-Aye
- Natalie Becker-Aye
- Laura Hager-Aye

The motion passed (6-0).

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Laura Hager to approve the February bills presented, including payroll. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held.

- Laura Hager-Aye
- Matt Lokemoen-Aye
- Lindsay Widicker-Aye
- Jenna Helseth-Aye
- Janelle Helm-Aye
- Natalie Becker-Aye

The motion passed (6-0).

Directors Report:

Director Wolsky and case managers are working on updating schedules, caseloads, ESY info, and staffing projections for 2026-27 school year, this information is being housed in one shared Google folder that staff have access to.

Director Wolsky is scheduling school team meetings for planning for the 2026-27 school year. She will be visiting schools to discuss caseloads, student needs, staff needs.

Teacher contracts will be distributed in early March; Paraprofessional work agreements will follow and be based on student needs in the districts.

Director Wolsky is looking to recruit SLPs for the 2026-27 school year. We currently have 3 contracted SLP's, with the goal to have SLP's under the negotiated agreement.

Teacher evaluations to be completed 4/15, Director Wolsky would like any feedback from administrators that needs to be in the evaluations.

Paraprofessional evaluations need to be completed by case managers by 4/30. Director Wolsky recommended that feedback be sought from classroom teachers that the paras support, in addition to pertinent information from administration.

NRS preschool, non-renewal of lease agreement for 2026-27, recommendation to advertise space for opening for opening in June. The space that is for rent was discussed.

Zones of Regulation Annual survey will be completed by case managers. Pier Tool survey will also be completed by Director Wolsky.

Pre-ETS grant (Transition) now requires progress reports for every student that is being funded through the grant. Director Wolsky recommends continuing to apply for the grant to offset transition funds. Director Wolsky discussed possible options for the empty Transition Coordinator position for the 2026-27 school year.

NDDPI updates were discussed by Director Wolsky. Also mentioned were the upcoming Medicaid changes that will be affecting the funding received, reducing it by almost half of the yearly amount for the 2026-27 school year. This change took effect as of Feb 2026 so it will effect some funding from the 2025-26 school year.

Preschool screenings have started taking place, with the first one completed in Fessenden. Screenings are open to any children ages 3-5 in all schools, no matter what the home district is.

Director Wolsky will be attending the National CEC Conference March 11-14th Salt Lake City, Utah. Wolsky has requested additional funds of approximately \$660.00 to cover full cost of conference. Wolsky plans to forego the state conference.

2 EC special ed teachers will be attending the State CEC Conference March 26-27th in Bismarck, ND.

East Central and Director Wolsky will be hosting the All-State Director Meeting March 2nd at the Chieftain in Carrington. ND DPI State Department meeting is today along with the Laura Booth Law meeting.

Other:

Megan Thompson discussed Paperwork Compliance is 100% for January. Discrepancy models were discussed and are being implemented across the Unit. Director Wolsky discussed an old procedure manual that had been used in the past, she noted that we will not be updating that binder as all information is on NDDPI and East Central websites.

Board Action:

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Jenna Helseth to approve \$660 of additional funds over the budgeted \$3000 of to cover the National Conference for Director Wolsky. Natalie Becker inquired what costs were included in the original budget. Direct Wolsky discussed the increased costs of hotel and conference was similar to the cost when attending 2 years ago. 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


The motion passed (7-0).

Special board meeting: March 4th at 11:00 to approve the Director's Evaluation.

Next board meeting date: Wednesday, March 18th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at East Central.

Next Finance Committee meeting February 24th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.


Lindsay Widicker, Board President


Melanie Quinton, Business Manager

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Date Approved