



## EAST CENTRAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

### FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**The Finance Committee meeting of East Central Center for Exceptional Children was held on 2.24.2026.**

**Members Present:** Jenna Helseth- Carrington, Lindsay Widicker-Fessenden-Bowdon, Laura Hager -New Rockford-Sheyenne, Ashly Wolsky-Director, Melanie Quinton-Business Manager

**Zoom:** Chris Triggs-Pingree-Buchanan

Meeting called to order at 10:42 am.


Discussion held:

- East Central end of fiscal year true-up was discussed on how the budget starts at the beginning of the year and things change throughout the year, for example: direct billed services such as speech.
- Discussion was held on budget planning for the 2026-27 fiscal year with caseloads and staffing, including special ed funding IEPs versus 504s was discussed.
- Direct billing of substitutes for contracted staff including speech was discussed. Discussion was held on teachers/SLPs under the negotiated agreement vs contracted services-both currently direct billed, including SLPA's and SLPPs. The discrepancy lies when a substitute is needed for contracted services—the bill is continuous to the district to cover the leave---while teachers under the negotiated and are a shared cost (substitute).
- Budget items were discussed, specifically line items that will come in under budget with loss of revenue and over budget items in expenses, including the CD at Bank Forward. It is recommended by the business manager that these funds will need to be pulled out of the CD.
- Medicaid Funding for Speech for the 2026/27 school year was discussed, income from Medicaid will be cut almost in half for the following year due to new regulations at the state level. These funds will need to come from districts, which may include increased assessments.
- Student contracts-discussion on PreK students attending ACC and the costs associated with it.

- Rental space at the East Central building was discussed. The back room and offices will potentially be up for rent due to providers utilizing the NRS school for student services.

The next committee meeting date: March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm

  
Lindsay Widicker (Mar 18, 2026 13:40:33 CDT)

Lindsay Widicker, Board President



Melanie Quinton, Business Manager

03/18/26