



**EAST CENTRAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

**March 18th, 2026**

**The board meeting of East Central Center for Exceptional Children was held on 3.18.26.**

**Members Present:**

- Lindsay Widicker, Fessenden-Bowdon-President
- Janelle Helm-Carrington-Vice President
- Natalie Becker-New Rockford-Sheyenne
- Jenna Helseth-Carrington

**Members Present Via Zoom:**

- Matt Lokemoen-Kensal
- Laura Hager-New Rockford-Sheyenne
- Jordan Brown-Oberon-Exited meeting around 11:00am-missed 3 votes
- Kristi Halvorson-Midkota
- Chris Triggs-Pingree-Buchanan-Arrived at meeting around 10:10-missed 1 vote

**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 10:06 am by Board President Lindsay Widicker, and a quorum was established.

Additions or Changes to the agenda: Early outs/late starts for substitutes and CD at Bank Forward.

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Janelle Helm to approve February 18th, 2026, board minutes. 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
- Kristi Halvorson-Aye
- Jordan Brown-Aye

The motion passed (8-0).

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Laura Hager to approve February 24th, 2026, Finance Committee Meeting minutes. The True up was discussed and the Bank Forward CD. Discussion was held on the direct billed positions billing wording was updated in the minutes to bring clarity to the recommendation. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held:

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

The motion passed (9-0).

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Natalie Becker to approve March 4th, 2026, Special Board Meeting minutes. 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
- Chris Triggs-Aye
- Kristi Halvorson-Aye
- Jordan Brown-Aye
- Laura Hager-Aye

The motion passed (9-0).

A motion was made by Natalie Becker and seconded by Janelle Helm to approve the March 2026 financial report as presented. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held:

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

The motion passed (9-0).

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Natalie Becker to approve the March bills presented, including payroll. Melanie discussed 2 bills that are not here yet. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held:

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

The motion passed (9-0).

**Directors Report:**

2026-27 Teacher contracts were sent out March 4<sup>th</sup>. Deadline for signing was March 17<sup>th</sup>. All contracts have been signed except one. Director Wolsky discussed a possible SLP moving to the area and special ed teacher.

Teacher evaluations are being worked on by Director Wolsky and will be completed by mid-April. Please provide evaluation feedback on the contracted teachers and therapists providing services in your building.

Paraprofessional evaluations are due to be completed by case managers on April 30th.

Director Wolsky shared updates on the financial implication of special education in addition to retention and recruitment initiative.

Preschool Screenings have been taking place; 6 schools are completed with NRS the final one on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Data on the unit wide screenings will be presented at the April board meeting.

Director Wolsky attended the State Director's Meeting on 3/2/26 in Carrington, Laura Booth Law Q & A today at 1 p.m.

Director Wolsky attended the National CEC Conference March 11-14th Salt Lake City, Utah. Director Wolsky was able to connect with GOALBOOK and STAR Autism representatives discussing new upcoming opportunities including social emotional learning (Tier 1), special ed law updates and the science behind joy.

Joy Lab opportunity for PD will be available again to East Central case managers tentatively in June and August. Outside of contract will be paid at the hourly rate, more info to come on EC staff attending.

Director Wolsky stated she will be providing door prizes as a donation to the State CEC Conference. We have 2 staff attending the conference. Jenna Helseth inquired about the costs of the door prizes, Director Wolsky stated it would be approximately \$50.

Indicator 8, Parent Survey will be shared with parents directly from East Central Case Managers with multiple methods to respond: email, text, or paper.

Teacher retention & recruitment was discussed; around the state there is a lot of contracted services being paid for services. Lindsay Widicker discussed different options that include AI. Director Wolsky stated how important it is to hire highly qualified staff and retain the staff we have.

Level D settings needed regionally across the state and the financial cost associated with it is being discussed state wide. Discussion was held on building regional locations, including staffing and other associated costs.

Director Wolsky discussed the possibility of state special ed funding, such as a weighted factor was discussed based on disability category may be coming across the state.

Director Wolsky discussed the potential closure of School of the Blind in Grand Forks. The students returning to their home school district, and/or possibly moving to a 4 day week.

Transition services were discussed how there is a disconnect on opportunities for students and what is available for students after graduation also. (school based versus adult services) Additional discussion to remedy this situation is taking place on a Directors call today with DD & Voc Rehab.

**Other:**

Finance Committee met on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was held on the true up information mid year. Information was given to each school with some mid-year true up information and where their finances are currently at; The possibility of an increase in assessments for the 2026-27 year was discussed.

Brooke Tayer from SEEC gave a mid year update on Medicaid. Where the unit is currently at for claims for the year. And projected information for next year regarding the cut in speech payment money paid out is significantly lower this year.

Rental space in the backroom and office space was discussed and on splitting utilities and other costs with the potential renter. There has been no interest yet.

Megan Thompson gave an update on paperwork and also discussed an updated manual to assist case managers. Jenna Helseth asked about the goals data doc and the internal usage of it. Megan discussed how she is keeping case managers compliant on IEP's.

Divide Electric came to EC and inspected all of the electric heaters. Heaters have been cleaned and waiting on additional parts.

Substitute teachers: The daily rate of \$170 broke down by 7 hours is \$24.29 has been the process for paying all substitutes, in question specifically is a late start or early release. Carrington and Fessenden schools also pay hourly. Substitutes are paid hourly unless they work a full day or ½ day: daily rate \$170, half day rate \$85, hourly rate \$24.29 payment process will continue based on past practice.

**Board Action:**

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Chris Triggs to approve Director Wolsky's 2026-27 Contract. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held:

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

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

The motion passed (8-0).

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Natalie Becker to approve Melanie Quinton's 2026-27 work agreement. Discussion was held on how the board approves contracts and work agreements. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held:

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

The motion passed (8-0).

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Janelle Helm to approve pulling the CD at Bank Forward to have access to the funds upon maturity of the CD. Melanie Quinton stated that the funds will be needed in the upcoming year with the decrease to fund balance. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held:

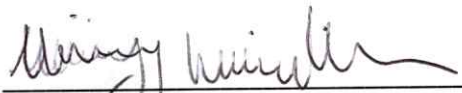
- Kristi Halvorson-Aye
- Laura Hager-Aye
- Matt Lokemoen-Aye
- Lindsay Widicker-Aye
- Jenna Helseth-Aye
- Janelle Helm-Aye
- Natalie Becker-Aye
- Chris Triggs-Aye

The motion passed (8-0).

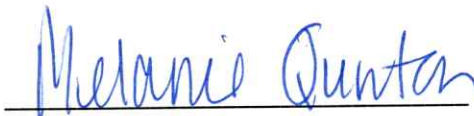
Next board meeting date: Wednesday, April 15th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at East Central.

Next Finance Committee meeting April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 p.m.



Lindsay Widicker, Board President



Melanie Quinton, Business Manager

4-15-26

Date Approved

### RESOLUTION FOR RECORD DESTRUCTION


The Board of East Central hereby authorizes the Business Manager to destroy the following records using the method of destruction outlined in ABCD-E1, Record Retention Schedule

Accounts Payable	
Purchase Order/Invoices	1981-1987, 1990-91, 2010-2011
Bills Payable	1981-1987, 1990-91, 2010-2011
Voided Checks	1990-91
Accounts Receivable	
Deposit Information	1981-1987, 1990-91, 2010-2011
Receipt Books	1990-91
Bank Records	
Bank Statements	2010-11
Student Records	
Medicaid Reimbursement	2010-11
Financial Reports	
Yearly Reports	1981-87, 1990-91
Balance Reports	1990-91, 2010-11
Check Registers	
Check Stubs	1981-87, 1990-91
Payroll Records	
Payroll Reports	1981-87, 2010-11

These records shall be destroyed by March 26th, 2026.

Approved this 15 day of April, 2026.

  
 Board President

  
 Business Manager