East Central
Center for Exceptional Children
16 8th Street South • New Rockford, ND 58356

EAST CENTRAL CENTER FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

August 27th, 2026

The board meeting of East Central Center for Exceptional Children was held on 8.27.26.

Members Present Roll Call:

- Lindsay Widicker, Fessenden-Bowdon-President-Present
- Natalie Becker-New Rockford-Sheyenne -Present
- Laura Hager-New Rockford-Sheyenne- Present
- Jenna Helseth-Carrington -Present
- Janelle Helm-Carrington-Vice President -Present
- Matt Lokemoen-Kensal -Present
- Kristi Halvorson-Midkota -Present
- Denise Harrington- Pingree-Buchanan -Present

Members Present on Zoom:

- Jordan Brown-Oberon -Joined at 10:04- Missed one vote

Members Absent:

Others Present:

- Ashly Wolsky, East Central Director
- Melanie Quinton, East Central Business Manager
- Shauna Fetch, East Central Teacher Representative, via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Board President Lindsay Widicker, and a quorum was established.

Additions or Changes to the agenda: None

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Natalie Becker to nominate Lindsay Widicker for President. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held:

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

The motion passed (8-0).

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Matt Lokemoen to nominate Jenna Helseth for Vice President. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held.

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

The motion passed (8-0)

A motion was made by Janelle Helm and seconded by Jenna Helseth to approve August 4th, 2026, board minutes. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held:

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

The motion passed (8-0).

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Laura Hager to approve the amended June 2026 financial report as presented. Melanie discussed CD funds and a reversal with the deposit showing $300,000 extra in income. Adjustment was made per auditors' recommendation. New EFY revenue information included with packet. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held:

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

The motion passed (9-0).

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Kristi Halvorson to approve the August bills, including payroll. With no further discussion, a roll call vote was held:

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

The motion passed (9-0).

Directors Report:

Staffing for 2026-27 was discussed, with 14 resignations Director Wolsky and district administration have worked hard to fill all positions. Director Wolsky discussed case management for non-certified staff; due to lower caseload numbers the Preschool Teacher will be support staff by providing 40% case management services and 40% preschool services. (shared cost); the Transition Coordinator will also be a 50% position, splitting half-time as a case manager coordinator (direct bill) additional mentoring available for staff through State mentoring program, Rise.

Grants were discussed, no word on approval of the Mental Health & Suicide Prevention grant that was submitted for $160,000. Discretionary Grant was cut to $5000 from $10,000 in previous years and will be used for the Resident Teacher program through UND, graduation expected this spring. Behavioral Health Grant monies available for $36,856.73; funds are still planned to go towards School Psychologist. This grant is variable based on Medicaid income.

Trainings completed: Goalbook & Safety Care for staff for 2026-27 school year.

Infinite Campus was discussed and the flow of documents and access to staff from the schools.

Director Wolsky will be attending NDDPI Fall Leadership in September in Bismarck.

Other:

Welcome back to school, all schools have started over the last week.

Welcome Denise Harrington, Pingree-Buchanan Superintendent, as EC's newest board member.

Building Exterior was discussed, bids are being accepted to fix the front and possibly put windows back in.

Board Action:

A motion was made by Kristi Halvorson and seconded by Laura Hager to approve second reading of Policy C-261- Request for Release from contract/resignations when unit has paid for tuition/schooling. This policy sets in payback amounts for funds invested in staff and requires a 3 year commitment to East Central. no further discussion, a roll call vote was held:

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

The motion passed (9-0).

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Janelle Helm to approve the LEA Financial Report submitted to ND DPI. No further discussion, a roll call vote was held:

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

The motion passed (9-0).

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Denise Harrington to approve the 2026-27 budget at 5.5 Mills. Discussion was held on Mill options and income over expenses. ADM and Tax Valuation was discussed and how it With a 18% increase to heath insurance for staff and other costs going up the need to go up in mills was decided. Discussion on selling the building was discussed. High cost students, the decrease in Medicaid funding. A recommendation was made by Jenna Helseth to decrease the dollar amount of the GL line for para substitutes, sick bank, and itinerant staff from $60,000 to $45,000. This adjustment was made prior to the vote and an updated budget was distributed. No further discussion, a roll call vote was held:

- Matt Lokemoen-No
- Janelle Helm-Aye
- Natalie Becker-No
- Laura Hager-No
- Jordan Brown-Aye
- Lindsay Widicker-Aye
- Jenna Helseth-Aye
- Kristi Halvorson-No
- Denise Harrington-No

The motion failed (5-4).

A motion was made by Jenna Helseth and seconded by Matt Lokemoen to approve the 2026-27 budget at 5 Mills. No further discussion, a roll call vote was held:

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

The motion passed (9-0).

Next board meeting date: Monday, September 14th, 2026 at 10:00am

Next Finance Committee: TBD

The meeting adjourned at 11:43am.

Lindsay Widicker, Board President

Melanie Quinton

Melanie Quinton, Business Manager

9-11-26

Date Approved