



Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday, March 16, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Educational Service Unit 7, Oak Room
2657 44th Ave
Columbus, NE 68601-8537

1. Call the Meeting to Order

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

LEADERSHIP • SERVICE • SUPPORT

Notice of this meeting was given in advance according to State Law 84-1411, by giving notice of the meeting to the public on ESU 7 website www.esu7.org and posted at location of meeting. Notice of this meeting was also given in advance to all members of the Board of Education of Educational Service Unit 7. Availability of the agenda and purpose of the hearing was communicated in the advance notice of the meeting and in the notice to the members of this hearing. All proceedings of the Board of Education of Educational Service Unit 7 were taken while the convened hearing was open to the attendance of the public.

1.1. Notification of Open Meetings Law

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

This meeting has been preceded by reasonable advance notice and is hereby declared to be in open session. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room.

1.2. Roll Call

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

1.3. Absent Board Members

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Board member absences.

Recommended Motion(s):

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Board member absences as presented Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

1.4. Pledge of Allegiance

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

2. Approval of Agenda

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

The sequence of agenda topics is subject to change at the discretion of the Board.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the agenda as presented.

Recommended Motion(s):

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

3. Virtual Conferencing for December 2025-March 2026

Speaker(s): Board President or designee

Rationale: Nebraska Revised Statute § 84-1411 authorizes virtual meetings for educational service units if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) are met.

The Board voted to have a virtual conferencing option for the following board meetings: December 2025, January 2026, February 2026, and March 2026.

4. Welcome Visitors

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

5. Public Comment

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale: The Board has the discretion to limit the amount of time set aside for public participation.

Citizens wishing to address the Board on a certain agenda item must complete the Request to be Heard Document prior to the start of the board meeting. Citizens wishing

to present petitions to the Board may do so at this time. However, the Board will only receive the petitions and not act upon them or their contents.

6. Consent Agenda

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

If any Board member wishes to discuss an item, it must be removed from the consent agenda at which time the remaining items will be acted upon.

Consent Agenda Includes:

- Minutes from the previous meeting(s)
- Presentation of the bills
- Policy review with no recommended changes
- Other routine agenda items

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Recommended Motion(s):

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the consent agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

6.1. Minutes

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.2. Presentation of Bills #81346 through #81514 totaling \$1,023,844.89

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

The summary of bills for the current month total: \$1,023,844.89 - Bills #81346 through #81514

General Activity Fund total: \$15.00

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>
81352	\$20,099.20	Amergis Healthcare Staffing	Bridges contracted services
81373	\$12,966.44	Eakes Office Solutions	Office remodel/copier maintenance
81377	\$12,800.00	EMS Linq	Accounting software agreement
81399	\$15,000.00	Guardian Spray Foam	Learning Academy fiberglass insulation
81406	\$6,500.00	Humanex Ventures	PD Leadership training
81430	\$14,364.68	Madden Therapy LLC	Special Education contracted services
81442	\$8,500.00	Roman, Wiemer & Associates	2024-25 Audit
81448	\$6,357.40	State of NE DAS State Accounting	Network Service Charges

6.3. Reading of Article I, Section 2, A Board's Name and Role

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.4. Reading of Article I, Section 3, A Election Districts

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.5. Reading of Article I, Section 7, A Consultants

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.6. Reading of Article I, Section 7, B Legal Counsel

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.7. Reading of Article I, Section 8, A Membership in Association

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.8. Reading of Article II, Section 1, A Location of Meetings

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.9. Reading of Article II, Section 2, A Regular Meetings

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.10. Resignations

Speaker(s): Board President or designee

Rationale: Olivia Bell - Speech Language Pathologist. Last day will be May 20, 2026.

This is a consent item.

7. Board Spotlight - Learning Academy (LA)

Rationale: Level III Programs Principal, Cara Neesen, will present the Learning Academy Spotlight.

8. Treasurer's Report

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale: Review the breakdown of the Treasurer's Report.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Recommended Motion(s):

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

9. Facilities Update

Speaker(s): Administrator or Designee

Rationale: The Administrator will provide a facilities update during this item

10. HVAC Learning Academy

Rationale: After a review from an independent engineer (Engineered Technologies), 2 proposals have been received from Tim Warren and Engineered Controls. This is in addition to an earlier proposal from Rutt's, which was based on their engineer's (Strategic Design) assessment.

Recommended Motion(s):

Discuss, consider, and take all action necessary to approve the proposal from _____ in the amount of \$_____. Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

11. New Hire: Tracie Chochon, School Psychologist for 2026-2027 school year

Rationale: Tracie Chochon, School Psychologist for 2026-2027 school year.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to

approve the contract for Tracie Chochon, School Psychologist for 2026-2027 school year as presented.

Recommended Motion(s):

Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to approve the contract for Tracie Chochon, School Psychologist for 2026-2027 school year as presented Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

12. Article I, Section 3, C Role of Individual Board Members

Rationale: Based on discussion during the February board meeting, and following consultation with ESU 7 Board Attorney, Justin Knight, the following sentence from this policy is being moved to Article I, Section 2, B Duties and Function of the Board

The Board of ESU 7 functions only when it takes official action at a duly called meeting of the Board.

Recommended Motion(s):

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article I, Section 3, C Role of Individual Board Members as presented. Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

13. Article I, Section 2, B Duties and Function of the Board

Rationale: Based on discussion during the February board meeting, and following consultation with ESU 7 Board Attorney, Justin Knight, the following sentence from this policy is being moved from this policy to [Article I, Section 3, C Role of Individual Board Members](#)

The Board of ESU 7 functions only when it takes official action at a duly called meeting of the Board.

Recommended Motion(s):

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article I, Section 2, B Duties and Function of the Board as presented. Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

14. Reading of Article I, Section 6, D Line of Responsibility

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

On Matters Involving Special Education (non-[Gen7ter/Learning Academy Level III Programs](#)):

1. Special Education Coordinator
2. Special Education Director
3. Administrator
4. Board of Education

On Matters Involving [Gen7ter Level III Programs](#):

1. Teacher
2. Student Services Principal
3. Special Education Director
4. Administrator
5. Board of Education

~~On Matters Involving Learning Academy:~~

- ~~1. Teacher~~
- ~~2. Student Services Principal~~
- ~~3. Special Education Director~~
- ~~4. Administrator~~
- ~~5. Board of Education~~

On Matters Involving ~~Production Print Shop~~:

1. Professional Development Director
2. Administrator
3. Board of Education

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article 1, Section 6, D as presented.

Recommended Motion(s):

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article 1, Section 6, D as presented Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

15. ESU 7 Administrator Contract Amendment

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale:

The Board Negotiations Committee has proposed the salary amount for the ESU 7 Administrator for the 2026-2028 term as detailed in the attached contract.

The Negotiations Committee Recommends a 4.9% total package increase.

Committee Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the amended ESU 7 Administrator Contract as presented.

Recommended Motion(s):

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the amended ESU 7 Administrator Contract as presented Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

16. Board Vacancy - District 8

Speaker(s): Board President

Rationale: Applications have not been received for the board vacancy in District 8. NEB. REV. STAT. § Section 32-574 states, "Unless otherwise provided by law, all vacancies shall be filled within forty-five days after the vacancy occurs unless good cause is shown that the requirement imposes an undue burden."

District 8 includes the following school districts, Clarkson, Columbus, David City, Lakeview, Schuyler. The term will expire December 31, 2028.

17. Administrator's Report General

Speaker(s): Administrator or Designee

Rationale:

- Spotlight Funding Revisit
- ESUCC Update
- Quarterly Report
- Professional Development and Print Shop Report - Director Ericson
- Special Education Report - Director Clay
- Technology Report - Director Ellsworth
- Upcoming Events
 - ESU 7 Board Recognition Dinner
 - **Monday, April 20, 2026 at The Oak Room of Columbus**
 - Board Meeting 4:00-5:00
 - Dinner 5:30-8:30
 - [RSVP](#) by April 6, 2026
 - 2026 Elections
 - Filing Deadlines
 - Incumbents: **July 15, 2026**
 - Non-Incumbents: **August 3, 2026**
 - These are the districts up for election in 2026
 - Richard Stephens - District 1 (Richard has chosen not to run again)
 - Amy Blaser - District 3
 - Jack Young - District 5 (Jack has chosen not to run again)
 - April Emeigh - District 7
 - Joyce Baumert - District 9 (Joyce has chosen not to run again)
 - Don Graff - District 11

17.1. Goal Update

Speaker(s): Administrator or Designee

Rationale: Goals - Attached for your Review

Goal 2: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will attend at least two professional/personal learning events annually.

- Attached Below

Goal 3: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will attend the corresponding school district board meetings at least once every two years to report the tailored services provided by ESU 7 and the outcomes measured.

- Completed:

- Cross County - October 13, 2025
- Schuyler - October 13, 2025
- High Plains - November 10, 2025
- Humphrey - November 10, 2025
- Lakeview - November 10, 2025
- Palmer - December 8, 2025
- David City - January 14, 2026
- Howells-Dodge - January 14, 2026
- Shelby-Rising City - January 19, 2026
- Leigh - February 11, 2026
- Columbus Public Schools - February 16, 2026
- Twin River Public Schools - February 16, 2026
- Central City - February 16, 2026
- St. Edward - March 9, 2026

17.2. Services Update

Speaker(s): Administrator or Designee

Rationale:

- SMART Update

Current Matrix of planned/accessed services attached

17.3. Legislative Update

Speaker(s): Administrator or Designee

Rationale: During this item, the Administrator will provide a Legislative Update to members of the Board.

[Link to Legislative Update](#)

18. Conference Report

Speaker(s): Conference Attendees

Rationale: Conference Attendees will report on their learnings.

19. Board Announcements

Rationale:

20. Adjournment

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Created by: Morgan Morsett, Secretary to the ESU 7 Board of Directors