



Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday, April 20, 2026 at 4:00 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](http://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. Amy Blaser and Marni Danhauer- absent as notified.

**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. Welcome Visitors

**Speaker(s):** Board President or Designee

#### 4. 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.

#### 5. 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.

5.1. Minutes

**Speaker(s):** Board President or Designee

**Rationale:**

**This is a consent item.**

5.2. Presentation of Bills #81515 through #81680 totaling \$1,045,346.52

**Speaker(s):** Board President or Designee

**Rationale:**

The summary of bills for the current month totals: \$1,045,346.52- Bills #81515 through #81680

General Activity Fund total: \$ 0.00

	Amount	Vendor	Description
81544	\$29,350.00	Dell Technologies	School Technology flow through (server)
81549	\$17,633.86	ESU 2	NNNC semester billing
81550	\$8,000.00	ESU 3	Early Learning Connection PD training
81595	\$7,665.52	Madden Therapy LLC	Special Education contracted services
81614	\$5,527.36	Southwest Binding & Laminating	Print Shop supplies

81615	\$6,357.40	State of NE DAS State Accounting	Network Service Charges
81617	\$7,900.00	The Leadership Center	NRPDHH Grant event registrations
81670	\$6,250.00	Red River Press Inc.	Title III ELLII teacher licenses (software)

**This is a consent item.**

5.3. Reading of Article II, Section 3, A Annual Organizational Meeting

**Speaker(s):** Board President or Designee

**Rationale:**

**This is a consent item.**

5.4. Reading of Article II, Section 4, A Special Meetings

**Speaker(s):** Board President or Designee

**Rationale:**

**This is a consent item.**

5.5. Reading of Article II, Section 5, A Emergency Meetings

**Speaker(s):** Board President or Designee

**Rationale:**

**This is a consent item.**

5.6. Reading of Article II, Section 6, A Notice to Public

**Speaker(s):** Board President or Designee

**Rationale:**

**This is a consent item.**

5.7. Reading of Article II, Section 6, C Yearly Activities

**Speaker(s):** Board President or Designee

**Rationale:**

**This is a consent item.**

5.8. Resignations - Ingrid Rodriguez

**Speaker(s):** Board President or designee

**Rationale:** Ingrid Rodriguez - Provisional Licensed Mental Health Practitioner. Last day will be May 20, 2026.

**This is a consent item.**

5.9. Excess Lodging & Meals

**Speaker(s):** Board President or Designee

**Rationale:** Excess Lodging:

- The Professional Development Department had excess travel to report:
  - Plain Talk about Literacy and Learning Training - March 11-13, 2026
    - Mary Jo Reynolds - \$464.84
- The Special Education Department had excess travel to report:
  - NASES SPED Legislative Conference -Lincoln, NE - February 18-19, 2026 Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker
    - Tami Clay - \$22.00
    - Susan Olmer - \$62.62
  - NASP National Association of School Psychologists - Chicago, IL- February 24-27, 2026 Hyatt Regency
    - Jaedyn Malasek - \$507.28
    - Calvin Frey - \$507.28
  - Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorder - Kansas City, MO - March 5-7, 2026 Sheraton Kansas City at Crown Center
    - Brooke Hemmer - \$284.52
    - Jenna Mattox- \$284.52
    - Brandy Rose - \$284.52
  - Celebrating Women in Leadership - Kearney, NE - March 25-26, 2026 - Holiday Inn
    - Tami Clay \$89.90

**This is a consent item.**

6. 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.

7. Reading of Article III, Section 5, D Construction Projects

**Speaker(s):** Board President or Designee

**Rationale:**

From Attorney Justin Knight, "Recent changes to state and federal procurement standards require several mid-year policy updates. Additional revisions may be necessary after the Nebraska Legislature adjourns next month...Neb. Rev Stat. § 73-106 requires the State Board of Education to adjust the bidding threshold once every five years. The State Board adjusted this amount to \$136,000. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-3445 requires the State Board of Engineers and Architects to adjust the threshold for

architects or engineers on construction projects. The Board adjusted this amount to \$144,000."

The ESU shall bid every project for the construction, remodeling, or repair of any building or for site improvements when the contemplated expenditures for the project is in excess of \$ 409136 ,000.00, or such sum as adjusted pursuant to §73-106.

6. Retention of an Architect or Engineer. The ESU shall not engage in the construction of any public works involving architecture or engineering unless the plans, specifications, and estimates have been prepared and the construction has been observed by an architect, a professional engineer, or those under the direct supervision of an architect or professional engineer; provided that such requirement shall not apply to any public work in which the contemplated expenditure for the complete project does not exceed One Hundred and ~~Eighteen~~ **Forty Four** Thousand Dollars (~~\$118144,000~~), as adjusted from time to time by § 81-3445 or other applicable law.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article III, Section 5, D as presented.

**Recommended Motion(s):**

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article III, Section 5, D as presented Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

8. 2026-2027 Contract for Cassandra Ruth, Early Childhood Speech Language Pathologist

**Rationale:** 2026-2027 Contract for Cassandra Ruth, Early Childhood Speech Language Pathologist

**Recommended Motion(s):**

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the 2026-2027 Early Childhood Speech Language Pathologist Contract for Cassandra Ruth as presented. Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

9. 2026-2027 Contract for Ann Dubas, Psychologist

**Rationale:** 2026-2027 Contract for Ann Dubas, Psychologist

**Recommended Motion(s):**

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the 2026-2027 Psychologist Contract for Ann Dubas as presented. Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

10. 2026-2027 Contract for Christina Hancock, Speech Language Pathologist

**Rationale:** 2026-2027 Contract for Christina Hancock, Speech Language Pathologist

**Recommended Motion(s):**

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the 2026-2027 Speech Language Pathologist Contract for Christina Hancock as presented. Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

11. Retirement Resolution- Larry Shefcyk- Custodian/Maintenance Technician

**Rationale:**

**BOARD RESOLUTION OF ESU 7 IN RECOGNITION AND PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE BY LARRY SHEFCYK**

**WHEREAS, Larry has always been mindful of the interests of Educational Service Unit 7 and has worked tirelessly to advance ESU 7;**

**WHEREAS, Larry has provided outstanding support and guidance to ESU 7; and**

**WHEREAS, Larry has faithfully and with honor, integrity and great distinction served as Custodian/Maintenance Technician for ESU 7;**

**RESOLVED, that the ESU 7 Board of Directors formally acknowledges and extends its profound appreciation to Larry for nearly seven years of service to ESU 7 and his cause of impact on education. As a token of appreciation, ESU 7 will provide Larry with a gift recognizing his retirement;**

**RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Board Members of ESU 7 are hereby authorized and directed to take such action as may be necessary, appropriate or advisable to implement this resolution; and**

**We, the undersigned, hereby certify that the ESU 7 Board is comprised of 12 members, of whom \_\_, constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting duly and regularly called, noticed, convened and held this 20th day of April, 2026, and that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_ members, and opposed by \_\_ members, and said Resolution has been duly recorded in the Minutes and is in full force and effect.**

**Recommended Motion(s):**

Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the Retirement Resolution as presented for Larry Shefcyk. Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

**12. Accessibility of attachments (public facing)**

**Rationale:**

For Public Facing Content

Legal & Compliance

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II Final Rule (April 2024).
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA required.
- Compliance deadlines:

- April 24, 2026 → for schools/ESUs serving 50,000+ population.
- April 26, 2027 → for schools/ESUs serving under 50,000.

\*Note: For ESUs, population = total area served.

Accessibility Basics:

Alt Text:

- Alternative text (often called alt text) is a brief written description that conveys the purpose or meaning of non-text content (for example, images, icons, and graphs). It helps students who use assistive technologies, supports low-bandwidth situations when images don't load, and improves search and reusability of instructional materials.

Captions

- Captions are on-screen text synchronized with video that conveys spoken dialogue and other meaningful audio (speaker names, sound effects, and music cues). High-quality captions make instructional media accessible and usable for all learners across classrooms, devices, bandwidth, and learning contexts.

Color Use:

- Thoughtful color use helps students notice patterns and understand information. Accessible color choices ensure that meaning is not lost for learners who can't perceive certain colors, are viewing on a projector/low-contrast screen, or are using assistive technologies.

Headings:

- Headings are the signposts of a page or slide. They provide structure, help all readers scan quickly, and let assistive technologies (like screen readers) jump between sections. Using true heading styles—not just bold or bigger text—creates a clear, logical outline for your materials.

Links:

- Links connect learners to instructions, resources, assignments, and support. Clear, descriptive link text and predictable behavior help all readers—including those using screen readers or keyboard navigation—find what they need quickly.

Tables:

- Tables are for organizing related data into rows and columns so readers can compare information quickly. Accessible tables use clear headers, simple

structure, and (when needed) short explanations so students, families, and assistive technologies can understand the data.

#### Text Contrast:

- Text contrast is the difference in luminance between text (or icons/lines) and its background. Strong contrast makes content readable on any device or projector and for learners with low vision or color-vision differences. It's a cornerstone of accessible design across slides, documents, LMS pages, and district websites.

### 13. District 8 Board Vacancy

#### **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.

### 14. Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council 2026-2027 Master Services Agreement

**Speaker(s):** Board President or designee

**Rationale:** This agreement outlines the ESUCC statewide offerings that ESUs elect to participate in each year.

#### **Recommended Motion(s):**

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the 2026-2027 Master Service Agreement with ESUCC as presented. Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

### 15. Administrator's Report General

**Speaker(s):** Administrator or Designee

#### **Rationale:**

- May Meeting
- Accessibility Requirements- April 24, 2026
  - Website work (Jan Marie, Otis, Rich, Kaise, Marci) <https://www.esu7.org/>
- ESUCC Update
- Professional Development and Print Shop Report - Director Ericson
- Special Education Report - Director Clay
- Technology Report - Director Ellsworth
- Upcoming Events

#### 15.1. Updated ESU 7 District 1 Map

**Rationale:** Due to the change in the Humphrey Public School district map, a change was made to ESU 7's District 1 Map. The new description is as follows:

## **Educational Service Unit Seven**

### **District One**

**Educational Service Units exterior boundaries are set by the legislature. When stated a precinct partially (i.e., part) covers any pieces or size it is referring only to those facets the legislature approves. Following is a list of areas where each subdistrict is recognized: Antelope County - Part of Oakdale Precinct, and Part of Elgin Precinct. Boone County - Part of Beaver Precinct, Part of Boone Precinct, Part of Ceder Precinct, Part of Southwest Manchester Precinct, Part of Dublin-Bonanza Precinct, Part of North Branch- Shell Creek Precinct, Part of North Manchester Precinct, Part of Oakland Precinct, and Part of Southeast Manchester Precinct. Madison County - Part of S-E-SC-NG-K Precinct (which is Humphrey Public School district #67), Platte County - Part of St. Bernard/Joliet Precinct (excluding Newman Grove School District), Part of Walker/Woodville Precinct (excluding Newman Grove School District) and Part of Granville/Humphrey Precinct (excluding Madison School District) which is also divided into two sections - West and East along 280th Ave - The West portion is District One. For clarity add parcels 710170922 and 710171328.**

#### 15.2. Goal Update

**Speaker(s):** Administrator or Designee

**Rationale:** Goals - Attached for your Review

#### 15.3. Services Update

**Speaker(s):** Administrator or Designee

**Rationale:**

- SMART Update

Items inside this item include visit updates, director reports, etc.

#### 15.4. Facilities Update

**Speaker(s):** Administrator or Designee

**Rationale:**

LA HVAC Progress

Playground grass

Outdoor Spaces Committee

Summer work scheduled

#### 15.5. Personnel

**Speaker(s):** Administrator or designee

**Rationale:** All Classified/Non Certificated Hires and Resignations under this item. Not an action item.

15.6. Administrator's Legislative Update

**Speaker(s):** Administrator or Designee

**Rationale:** [View Ostmeyer's April Legislative Update](#)

16. Board Announcements

**Rationale:**

17. Adjournment

**Speaker(s):** Board President or Designee

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