



**Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
Educational Service Unit 7, A/B Conference Room  
2567 44th Avenue  
Columbus, NE 68601  
Monday, June 15, 2026 at 5:30 PM  
Posted Locations:

- Columbus Telegram Newspaper
- Columbus Telegram Website
- ESU 7 North Building Front Door

Posted Date: 06/09/2026

Attendance Taken at 5:30 PM.

Bob Arp:	Present
Joyce Baumert:	Present
Amy Blaser:	Present
Marni Danhauer:	Absent
April Emeigh:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Beth Kabes:	Present
Clark Lehr:	Absent
Dawn Lindsley:	Present
Richard Stephens:	Present
Jack Young:	Present

Present: 7, Absent: 4.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order**

## 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.

Board President Dawn Lindsley called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

### 1.1. Notification of Open Meetings Law

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

### 1.3. Absent Board Members

Board members Clark Lehr, Don Graff and Marni Danhauer will be absent. They notified of their absence prior to the meeting.

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

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Board member absences as presented Passed with a motion by Jack Young and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Marni Danhauer:	Absent
April Emeigh:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Clark Lehr:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Amy Blaser:	Yea
Beth Kabes:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Richard Stephens:	Yea
Jack Young:	Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4	

### 1.4. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Agenda

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.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Joyce Baumert and a second by Beth Kabes.

Marni Danhauer: Absent  
April Emeigh: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Clark Lehr: Absent  
Bob Arp: Yea  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Richard Stephens: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

3. Welcome Visitors

John Sayer, Schuyler resident.

4. Public Comment

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. District 8 Board Vacancy

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.

6. 2026 Elections

Filing Deadlines:

- Incumbents: **July 15, 2026**
- Non-Incumbents: **August 3, 2026**

These are the districts up for election in 2026:

- District 1 - Richard Stephens - NOT re-filing
- District 3 - Amy Blaser - Re-filed
- District 5 - Jack Young NOT re-filing
- District 7 - April Emeigh - Re-filed
- District 9 - Joyce Baumert NOT re-filing
- District 11 - Don Graff - Re-filed

## 7. Consent Agenda

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.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the consent agenda as presented  
Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Richard Stephens.

Marni Danhauer:	Absent
April Emeigh:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Clark Lehr:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Amy Blaser:	Yea
Beth Kabes:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Richard Stephens:	Yea

Jack Young: Yea  
 Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

7.1. Minutes

**This is a consent item.**

7.2. Presentation of Bills #81681 through #81871 totaling \$1,131,660.89 - May

The summary of bills for the current month total: \$1,131,660.89 - Bills #81681 through #81871

General Activity Fund total: No activity

	Amount	Vendor	Description
81687	\$9,092.80	Amergis Healthcare Staffing	Bridges contracted services
81706	\$10,129.36	Courageous Literacy LLC	Title III contracted services
81711	\$10,000.00	Dan's Tree Service	Tree removal
81713	\$35,762.60	Dell Technologies	School Technology flow through
81715	\$10,937.89	Eakes Office Solutions	Copier service agreements
81722	\$31,058.74	ESU 9	NRPDHH DC student trip
81723	\$30,050.00	ESUCC	Facilitator LETRS training/registrations
81782	\$25,680.48	Paper 101	Copy paper for print shop
81787	\$9,968.35	Pyramid Educational Consultants	ASD contracted services
81792	\$5,636.78	Seidlitz Education	Title III contracted services
81795	\$6,357.40	State of NE DAS State Accounting	Network Service Charges
81816	\$6,400.00	Amplify Education Inc.	CLSD grant

**This is a consent item.**

7.3. Presentation of Bills #81873 through #82044 totaling \$1,091,967.59 - June

The summary of bills for the current month total: \$1,091,967.59 - Bills #81873 through #82044

General Activity Fund total: \$130.94

	Amount	Vendor	Description
81878	\$9,555.60	Amergis Healthcare Staffing	Bridges contracted services

81892	\$27,531.00	Columbus Public Schools	SPED Deaf Education contracted services
81901	\$7,853.83	Eakes Office Solutions	Copier service agreements
81903	\$8,769.75	Educational Products, Inc.	Title IC materials and supplies
81908	\$5,000.00	ESU 1	Title III contracted services
81938	\$18,150.00	Imagine Learning	Title III software licenses
81940	\$7,000.00	Jim Gill, Inc.	ELC contracted services
81957	\$50,670.00	On To College	College test prep for schools flow through
81963	\$15,690.38	Paper 101	Print Shop paper
81969	\$9,940.00	Rutt's	North Building service agreement
81980	\$8,324.00	Teachtown	SPED Instructional supplies
82019	\$20,749.00	Lexia Learning Systems	LETRS training and software

**This is a consent item.**

7.4. Reading of Article I, Section 6, A Concept of Administration.

**This is a consent item.**

7.5. Reading of Article I, Section 6, B Administrator.

**This is a consent item.**

7.6. Reading of Article I, Section 6, C Duty and Function of the Administrator.

**This is a consent item.**

7.7. Reading of Article II, Section 6, B Notice of Budget Meeting.

**This is a consent item.**

7.8. Reading of Article III, Section 1, D Requests, Cost, and Payment.

**This is a consent item.**

7.9. Reading of Article III, Section 1, F Special Education Cooperative.

**This is a consent item.**

7.10. Resignations

- Natividad Millan, Title 1C Education Program Liaison. Last Day: July 28, 2026.

**This is a consent item.**

7.11. Authorization of Administrator to Sign for Federal/State Funds

**This is a consent item.**

7.12. 2026-2027 Contract for Angel Mayberry, Early Learning Connection Grant Coordinator

**This is a consent item.**

7.13. 2026-2027 Contract for Amy Slama, Grant Coordinator

**This is a consent item.**

7.14. 2026-2027 Contract for Beth Ericson, Professional Development Director

**This is a consent item.**

7.15. 2026-2027 Contract for Cara Neesen, Student Services Principal

**This is a consent item.**

7.16. 2026-2027 Contract for Iris Medina Gonzalez, Provisionally Licensed Mental Health Practitioner

**This is a consent item.**

7.17. 2026-2027 Contract for Jenna Mattox, Student Services Principal

**This is a consent item.**

7.18. 2026-2027 Contract for Kassandra Cornwell, Provisionally Licensed Mental Health Practitioner

**This is a consent item.**

7.19. 2026-2027 Contract for Lynne Webster, Licensed Mental Health Practitioner

**This is a consent item.**

7.20. 2026-2027 Contract for Megan Welch, Licensed Mental Health Practitioner

**This is a consent item.**

7.21. 2026-2027 Contract for Merridie Kaup, Licensed Mental Health Practitioner

**This is a consent item.**

7.22. 2026-2027 Contract for Sonya Sukup, Licensed Mental Health Practitioner

**This is a consent item.**

7.23. 2026-2027 Contract for Tami Clay, Special Education Director

**This is a consent item.**

7.24. 2026-2027 Non-Member Contract for Services

Board Policy requires the Board to annually approve a Non-Member School Contract for Services Agreement.

Article III, Section 1, D. Requests, Cost, and Payment

**This is a consent item.**

8. Treasurer's Report - April  
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.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented Passed with a motion by Jack Young and a second by Beth Kabes.

Marni Danhauer: Absent  
April Emeigh: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Clark Lehr: Absent  
Bob Arp: Yea  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Richard Stephens: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

9. Treasurer's Report - May  
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.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented Passed with a motion by Joyce Baumert and a second by Bob Arp.

Marni Danhauer: Absent  
April Emeigh: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Clark Lehr: Absent  
Bob Arp: Yea  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Richard Stephens: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

10. Board Spotlight - Literacy  
Professional Development Director, Dr. Beth Ericson, will present the Spotlight on Literacy.  
Professional Development Director, Dr. Beth Ericson, reviewed the slides and presented the spotlight on Literacy.  
All teachers of ages 4 through 3rd grade must be adequately trained in the science of reading. The CLSD (Comprehensive Literacy State Development) Grant is used to provide this adequate training for district staff, along with stipends, training ESU 7 staff to train

others, and salaries (to offset levy dollars) among other things. The Year 3 grant notification will come out in July and the grant is anticipated to provide funding until June 2029. ESU 7 is in the process of creating our own courses.

Board Member Dawn Lindsley - How are they (the districts) tracking or are we (ESU 7) tracking who is adequately trained and who is not?

Director Ericson - Every June, there are a variety of reports that are submitted that ask how many teachers they have and how many are adequately trained.

Board Member Dawn Lindsley - If there's a newer teacher hired, coming from college, how is it checked to see if they are adequately trained?

Director Ericson - The college course work and descriptions are compared to the state literacy rubric.

Board Member Bob Arp - Teachers who are already struggling with burn out are now having to add one more thing to their plate, how are they handling it?

Director Ericson - In the statute, there is not a deadline. Nebraska Department of Education is recommending everyone is in compliance by July 31, 2028, however, that's not state statute.

Board Member Dawn Lindsley - How long will it take to close the gap and will there have to be recertification over time?

Director Ericson - The hope is that with the districts (the ones tracking the data) and how many are LETRS trained/adequately trained in conjunction with the colleges providing the proper course work and education, that will bridge the gap closed.

Board Member Jack Young - Are Nebraska's reading scores low?

Director Ericson - Right now the state average is around 62% or 63%. The goal is for 80% of readers being at or above passing.

Board Member Dawn Lindsley - Do we know what our average is for all our ESU 7 schools?

Director Ericson - Do not want to average the averages. Director Ericson will share a spreadsheet with the board members.

11. New Hire: Guadalupe Ramirez, Title 1C Education Program Education Liaison  
New Hire: Guadalupe Ramirez, Title 1C Education Program Education Liaison for 2025-2026 summer and 2026-2027 school year.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to approve the contracts for Guadalupe Ramirez, Title 1C Education Program Education Liaison for 2025-2026 summer and 2026-2027 school year as presented.

Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to approve the contracts for Guadalupe Ramirez, Title 1C Education Program Education Liaison for 2025-2026 summer and 2026-2027 school year as presented Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Marni Danhauer: Absent

April Emeigh: Absent

Don Graff: Absent

Clark Lehr: Absent

Bob Arp: **Yea**

Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Richard Stephens: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

12. New Hire: Lisa Emeigh, Level III Resource Teacher  
New Hire: Lisa Emeigh, Level III Resource Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to approve the contract for Lisa Emeigh, Level III Resource Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to approve the contract for Lisa Emeigh, Level III Resource Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year as presented Passed with a motion by Beth Kabes and a second by Jack Young.

Marni Danhauer: Absent  
April Emeigh: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Clark Lehr: Absent  
Bob Arp: Yea  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Richard Stephens: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

13. New Hire: Tracy Muller, Licensed Mental Health Practitioner  
New Hire: Tracy Muller, Licensed Mental Health Practitioner for the 2026-2027 school year.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to approve the contract for Tracy Muller, Licensed Mental Health Practitioner for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to approve the contract for Tracy Muller, Licensed Mental Health Practitioner for the 2026-2027 school year as presented Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Jack Young.

Marni Danhauer: Absent  
April Emeigh: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent

Clark Lehr: Absent  
Bob Arp: Yea  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Richard Stephens: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

14. Reading of Article II, Section 3, A Annual Organizational Meeting  
Per Justin Knight with Perry Law Firm: "LB 596 allows each board to designate the method by which they will give advanced public notice of board meetings. The method must be noted in the meeting minutes. At the annual organizational meeting, each ESU board should approve (and note in the minutes) the designated method of giving notice, such as on the ESU's website or posting in conspicuous places within the ESU."

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article II, Section 3, A as presented.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article II, Section 3, A as presented Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Marni Danhauer: Absent  
April Emeigh: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Clark Lehr: Absent  
Bob Arp: Yea  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Richard Stephens: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

Updating the requirement for schools and ESUs to publish monthly in the newspaper.

15. Reading of Article II, Section 6, A Notice to Public  
Per Justin Knight with Perry Law Firm: "LB 596 amends the Open Meetings Act's notice requirements. Previously, notices of board meetings were required to be published in the newspaper, with several exceptions. Now, notices of regular meetings only need to be published four times per year. An ESU that wants to continue publishing monthly notices in the newspaper is free to continue doing so. But for those ESU's that do not want to be tied to a newspaper each month, notices of the regular meeting schedule need only be published four times a year."

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article II, Section 6, A as presented.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article II, Section 6, A as presented Passed with a motion by Jack Young and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Marni Danhauer: Absent  
April Emeigh: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Clark Lehr: Absent  
Bob Arp: Yea  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Richard Stephens: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

Changes to previously required notice. At January reorganization meeting, a decision will be made for the next year.

16. Reading of Article III, Section 5, F Services

Per Justin Knight with Perry Law Firm, "The Purchasing Policy is important to ensure that Boards have oversight of large purchases in the ESU, while affording the administration the flexibility to make smaller purchases when needed. However, existing policy does not specifically address ESU funds for ongoing service or renewals previously approved (such as utility bills, insurance renewals, and so forth). To better address the distinctions between these scenarios, each ESU Board may consider updating this part of Article 3."

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

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article III, Section 5, F as presented Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Richard Stephens.

Marni Danhauer: Absent  
April Emeigh: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Clark Lehr: Absent  
Bob Arp: Yea  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

17. Reading of Article III, Section 9, A Records Management and Disposition  
Per Justin Knight with Perry Law Firm, "LB 596 updated references in the record retention laws to better reflect current technology and electronic storage capabilities. This section of ESU Policy has been updated to reflect these changes."

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article III, Section 9, A as presented.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article III, Section 9, A as presented Passed with a motion by Jack Young and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Marni Danhauer: Absent

April Emeigh: Absent

Don Graff: Absent

Clark Lehr: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea

Beth Kabes: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

18. Approval of Student Services Handbooks  
Annually, the Board of Educational Service Unit 7, will review and approve the ESU 7 Student Handbooks. The Handbook Committee will provide an update.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the ESU 7 Student/Parent Handbooks and the ESU 7 Employee Handbook as presented.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the ESU 7 Student/Parent Handbooks and the ESU 7 Employee Handbook as presented Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Jack Young.

Marni Danhauer: Absent

April Emeigh: Absent

Don Graff: Absent

Clark Lehr: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea

Beth Kabes: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Richard Stephens: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

Committee Chair Bob Arp said most of the reviewing of the handbooks involved rephrasing and general language and grammar clean up. The committee began four years ago and from then until now, we are at a point where changes are pretty minor. Committee Member Beth Kabes added, a lot of COVID language updated or changed by using local DHHS guidelines to create our own. Administrator Ostmeyer mentioned there were changes to meet the accessibility guidelines.

Board Member Dawn Lindsley - For the parents, do they get an online and physical copy of the Handbook(s)?

Administrator Ostmeyer - They sign a hard copy and also have access to one online.

19. Authorization of the Administrator to Pay July Bills in absence of July Board Meeting

The ESU 7 Board of Education will not meet in July, 2026. This Board action gives authority to the Administrator to pay July bills. The ESU 7 Board will approve these expenses in the next possible Board Meeting.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the Administrator's payment of bills in July 2026.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the Administrator's payment of bills in July 2026 Passed with a motion by Jack Young and a second by Richard Stephens.

Marni Danhauer: Absent  
April Emeigh: Absent  
Don Graff: Absent  
Clark Lehr: Absent  
Bob Arp: Yea  
Joyce Baumert: Yea  
Amy Blaser: Yea  
Beth Kabes: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Richard Stephens: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

20. Budgeting for additional 1% Budget Authority

Nebraska Statute allows an additional 1% in budgeted property tax asking requiring an affirmative vote of 75% of the governing body for approval. These additional budget

authority dollars remain critical as we continue to operate with the one and a half cent levy, no state aid funding for 2026-2027, and spending restrictions for the upcoming years. In the event valuations change or additional funding becomes available, this action will allow ESU 7 additional budget authority to access those dollars.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the additional 1% in budgeted tax asking.

Item needs to be moved to the August agenda - we do not have 75% of the governing body present.

21. Budget Hearing and Budget Summary, followed by the Final Tax Request Hearing, then followed by the Regular Board Meeting - Monday, September 21, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. in the ESU 7 Oak Room

Monday, September 21, 2026 at 5:15 pm in the ESU 7 Oak Room - Budget Hearing and Budget Summary, followed by the Final Tax Request Hearing, which will be followed by the Regular Board Meeting to start at 5:30pm or when the Final Tax Request Hearing is concluded, whichever is later.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the Monday, September 21, 2026 schedule for the Budget Hearing and Budget Summary, Final Tax Request Hearing, and the Regular Board Meeting as presented Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the Monday, September 21, 2026 schedule for the Budget Hearing and Budget Summary, Final Tax Request Hearing, and the Regular Board Meeting as presented Passed with a motion by Richard Stephens and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Marni Danhauer: Absent

April Emeigh: Absent

Don Graff: Absent

Clark Lehr: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea

Beth Kabes: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

Approving the budget and Final Tax Asking in September, there must be a majority of the board present.

22. Resolution on Training Requirements

After the passage of LB 1329, school districts are required to determine the length of time for every required annual training. ESU 7 will follow the same requirements for the same

training we do for our pre-service days.

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

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the resolution as presented

Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Richard Stephens.

Marni Danhauer: Absent

April Emeigh: Absent

Don Graff: Absent

Clark Lehr: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea

Beth Kabes: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

23. **Administrator's Report General**

- Spotlight Funding Revisit
- ESUCC Update
- Accreditation Letter & Certificate
- Quarterly Report
- Professional Development and Print Shop Report - Director Ericson
- Special Education Report - Director Clay
- Technology Report - Director Ellsworth
- Administrator Leave Report

Administrator Ostmeier shared in the ESUCC Update that ESU 7 has not had core service funding for 12 years now.

Director Ericson - 3 Professional Development team members start on Monday, June 22nd. The department retreat is on Tuesday, then they are finishing the week at the Humanex retreat in Omaha. Print Shop ladies are busy, with their additional summer help.

Board president Dawn Lindsley asked if there has been an increase in cost due to the economy with the supply chain?

Director Ericson - No, prices have stayed pretty similar. Prices will be taken to the Executive Committee but Director Ericson's recommendation is that they stay the same as last year.

Director Ellsworth - Group purchasing, specifically for backup software (Veeam) which is

a renewal from 3 years ago. Costs ESU 7 roughly \$33,000 a year while saving the districts \$50,000 in the end. LastPass through ESU 7 now has 78 schools participating which increased the savings to \$156,000 from \$144,000. Some schools are so small that they wouldn't receive those savings if we (ESU 7) exist. Currently having a supply chain issues - a server that was \$13,000 is now \$26,000. Our schools are needing them but cannot afford to purchase them. We created a contract program to purchase servers then lease to the schools to allow them to purchase while keeping the cost easier to digest. Phones using copper based lines are going to stop being used so schools are exploring replacement options.

### 23.1. Goal Update

#### Board of Education

Goal 1: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will formalize a process to mentor and onboard new board members.

- **Update: Mentoring in process!**

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

- **Update: Screenshot attached**

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 outcome measured.

- **Update: All district board meetings have been completed for the 2024-2026 cycle.**

Goal 4: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will continue to use the operationalized communication materials detailing tailored services and outcomes at scheduled visits to each district and train board members on the meaning of the data.

- **Update: Revised this year and deployed with school boards.**

#### Administrator

Goal 1: By July 2026, assess, consider, and revise the current staff onboarding and mentoring process for incoming staff.

- **Update: Done in conjunction with Agency Team. Will deploy this summer!**

Goal 2: The ESU will establish and sustain a transparent program- and service-focused budgeting process.

- **Update: Training for Board Budget committee and the rest of the board.**

Goal 3: ESU 7 will establish and complete comprehensive facilities and staffing analysis to support the short and long term goals of ESU 7.

- **Update: Facilities plan being reviewed by Board Buildings & Grounds Committee. Short and long term goals being established.**

Administrator Ostmeyer reviewed the goals and updates.

23.2. Services Update

- [SMART Update](#)

23.3. Legislative Update

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

[Link to Legislative Update](#)

Bromm and Associates provided Interim Studies Tracker - nothing directly effects ESUs.

23.4. Facilities Update

The Administrator will provide a facilities update during this item.

- Barcel adjacent land

Administrator Ostmeyer reached out to the owner of the grassy area between South Building & Goodwill. Two years ago, the previous owner would only sell the land with the strip mall. The new owner has no interest in selling the strip mall and wants to see a drawing of the potential development and utilization and conversations will continue.

23.5. **Personnel**

New Hires:

- Adi Perez - Title I Part C Education Program Recruiter. Start Date, May 12, 2026.
- Traci Seim - Receptionist/Administrative Secretary. Start Date: June 15, 2026.
- Alan Valles - District Technology Coordinator. Start Date: July 1, 2026.
- Megan Kassing - Special Education Financial Specialist. Start Date: August 1, 2026.
- Alexandra Kemp - Cen7ter Paraprofessional. Start Date, August 10, 2026.
- Susan Pernicek - Bridges Paraprofessional. Start Date, August 10, 2026.

23.5.1. Title IC Education Program Summer Work Agreements

**2026 Title IC Education Summer Programs**

The TIC will have summer enrichment programs during the month of June and July. The Learning Academy, Cen7ter, and Bridges along with some space in the Columbus Public Library will host the program in July. Our attendance goal is 120 students from within the ESU 7 area. Other

TIC summer program sites include O'Neill, Ainsworth, and Fremont.

The following individuals are recommended for employment.

**ESU 7 Summer Staff:**

Lizbeth Chirino  
Barbara Raya  
Meghan Wolfe  
Anne Baptiste  
Cindy Lorentzen  
Shanda Hall  
Melinda Velecela  
Cory Waite  
Patricia Acosta  
Susan Doehling  
Harriet Kibalya  
Kinsey Staab Cavalli  
Iris Medina Gonzalez  
Nichole Flynn - Ainsworth / O'Neill

**District Reimbursement:**

Tina Reeg - Twin River

- 23.5.2. Personnel - 2026-2027 Contracts  
2026-2027 Contracts offered and authorized by the Chief Administrator for the following staff:
- Alicia Kardisco-Hastreiter, Paraprofessional
  - Ashley Lerch, Paraprofessional
  - Barb Brockhaus, Paraprofessional
  - Breena Walkenhorst, Paraprofessional
  - Harriet Kibalya, Paraprofessional
  - Jeri Glenn, Paraprofessional
  - Joanna Terrazas, Paraprofessional
  - Kristen Cattau, Paraprofessional
  - Sherry Olney, Paraprofessional
  - Tammy Semrad, Paraprofessional

24. **Committee Reports**

- 24.1. Budget Committee Report  
Budget Committee Chair, Dawn Lindsley, will provide an update.  
No report this month - finding a time to meet.
- 24.2. Buildings and Grounds Committee Report  
The Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair Jack Young, will provide an update.  
Buildings and Grounds Committee met April 30th and toured the inside and outside of all three buildings. Working on identifying and filtering through the biggest wants and needs to determine priorities.

## 25. Board Announcements

- Upcoming Events
  - ALICAP Summer Workshops
    - Tuesday, July 7 - Gering
    - Wednesday, July 8 - Kearney
    - Thursday, July 9 - Lincoln
  - NASB Board Candidate Workshops
    - Tuesday, August 4 - Alliance and Beatrice
    - Wednesday, August 5 - McCook and Omaha
  - Area Membership Meetings
    - Tuesday, August 18 - Cody-Kilgore
    - Wednesday, August 19 - Gering
    - Thursday, August 20 - Kearney
    - Tuesday, August 25 - Nebraska City
    - Wednesday, August 26 - South Sioux City
    - Tuesday, September 1 - Omaha
    - Wednesday, September 2 - North Platte
    - Wednesday, September 9 - York
    - Wednesday, September 23 - Fremont
  - State Education Conference
    - November 18-20, 2026 - Omaha
  - AESA Annual Conference
    - December 2-4, 2026 - Orlando, FL
    - 2026 AESA Annual Conference Information Request form will be emailed to all board members.
      - Please indicate if you intend on attending and fill out the necessary information. Please submit the form to Secretary to the Board, Morgan Morsett by August 17, 2026 (August Board Meeting).

Reminder: no board meeting in July

26. Adjournment  
Board President Dawn Lindsley adjourned the meeting at 6:51 pm