



Regular Board of Education Meeting

Educational Service Unit 7, Oak Room

2657 44th Ave

Columbus, NE 68601-8537

Monday, January 22, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Posted Locations:

Columbus Telegram Newspaper

Columbus Telegram Website

ESU 7 North Building Front Door

Posted Date: 1/15/2024

Attendance Taken at 5:34 PM.

Bob Arp: Present

Joyce Baumert: Present

Marni Danhauer: Present

Don Graff: Present

Dawn Lindsley: Present

Richard Luebbe: Present

Jennifer Miller: Present

Doug Pauley: Present

Richard Stephens: Present

Gary Wieseler: Present

Jack Young: Present

Present: 11.

Attendance Update Taken at 5:39 PM.

Karen Gomez: Present

Present: 12.

Attendance Update Taken at 6:19 PM.

Karen Gomez: Absent

Present: 11, Absent: 1.

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 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.

Roll call was taken at 5:34pm

Board President conducted the meeting.

Staff present:

Larriane Polk, Administrator

Linda Shefcyk, Business Manager

Mindy Reed, Secretary to the Board of Directors

Marci Ostmeyer, Professional Development Director

Tami Clay, Special Education Director

Dan Ellsworth, Network Operations Director

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

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

No absent board members.

1.4. Pledge of Allegiance All members present participated in the 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 any necessary action to approve agenda as presented.

Agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Jennifer Miller and a second by Marni Danhauer.

Bob Arp: Yea
Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Don Graff: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 11, Nay: 0

3. Welcome Visitors Karen Gomez joined the meeting as a visitor until she was appointed as District 7 representative.
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. No public comments provided.

5. District 7 Board Application

An Application has been received for the board vacancy in District 7. NEB. REV. STAT. § Section 79-1217(2) states that the appointee will serve "for the balance of the unexpired term" of the board spot that has been vacated. Applications were submitted by:

- Karen Gomez, resides in the Columbus Public Schools district region.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider, and vote to approve the resolution appointing Karen Gomez to the Educational Service Unit No. 7 Board position based on a vacancy for a term ending on December 31, 2026.

Discuss, consider, and vote to approve the resolution appointing Karen Gomez to the Educational Service Unit No. 7 Board position based on a vacancy for a term ending on December 31, 2026 Passed with a motion by Jennifer Miller and a second by Jack Young.

Bob Arp: Yea
Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Don Graff: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea

Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 11, Nay: 0

Karen Gomez submitted an application for the District 7 board vacancy. Board member Bob Arp and Karen Gomez worked together previously and Bob believes Karen will be a great addition to the board.

6. Board Code of Ethics and Oath of Office Annually, Board Members participate in the Oath of Office and sign their Code of Ethics.

I, _____, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely and without mental reservations, or for purpose or evasions; and that I will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of member of the Board of Educational Service Unit No. 7, according to law, to the best of my ability. And I do further swear that I do not advocate, nor am I a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or this State by force or violence; and that during such time that I am in this position I will not advocate nor become a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or this State by force or violence. So help me God. All board members recited the Oath of Office and signed the form. Administrator Polk gave each board member a section of the Code of Ethics to review and answer two questions: How has this code of ethics been demonstrated at ESU 7? What is a hypothetical situation where this code of ethics is not demonstrated? Each board member read their section aloud and provided examples.

7. Election of Board Officers

7.1. Election of Board President

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to elect _____ as President of Board of Education.

Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to elect Doug Pauley as President of Board of Education Passed with a motion by Jennifer Miller and a second by Jack Young.

Doug Pauley: Abstain (With Conflict)
Bob Arp: Yea
Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Karen Gomez: Yea

Don Graff: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

Administrator Polk lead the meeting until the board elections were complete. Current Board President, Doug Pauley, was nominated for the 2024 ESU 7 Board President.

7.2. Election of Vice President of the Board of Education

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to elect _____ as Vice President of Board of Education.

Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to elect Jack Young as Vice President of Board of Education Passed with a motion by Doug Pauley and a second by Jennifer Miller.

Jack Young: Abstain (With Conflict)

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Marni Danhauer: Yea

Karen Gomez: Yea

Don Graff: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Luebbe: Yea

Jennifer Miller: Yea

Doug Pauley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Gary Wieseler: Yea

Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

Current Vice President, Jack Young, was nominated and selected to be the Vice President for 2024.

7.3. Election of Secretary of Board of Education

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to elect _____ as Secretary of Board of Education.

Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to elect Jennifer Miller as Secretary of Board of Education Passed with a motion by Richard Stephens and a second by Doug Pauley.

Jennifer Miller: Abstain (With Conflict)

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Karen Gomez: Yea
Don Graff: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

Current Secretary of the Board, Jennifer Miller, was nominated and selected to be the Secretary of the Board for 2024.

8. **Committees and Positions**

8.1. Select Treasurer to the Board of Education

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to appoint _____ as Treasurer to the Board of Education.
Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to appoint Linda Shefcyk as Treasurer to the Board of Education Passed with a motion by Jack Young and a second by Jennifer Miller.

Bob Arp: Yea
Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Karen Gomez: Yea
Don Graff: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 12, Nay: 0

Current Treasurer to the Board of Education, Linda Shefcyk, was nominated and selected to be the Treasurer to the Board of Education for 2024.

8.2. Select Recording Secretary to the Board of Education

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to appoint _____ as Recording Secretary to the Board of Education.

Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to appoint Mindy Reed as Recording Secretary to the Board of Education Passed with a motion by Jennifer Miller and a second by Doug Pauley.

Bob Arp: Yea
Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Karen Gomez: Yea
Don Graff: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 12, Nay: 0

Current Recording Secretary to the Board of Education, Mindy Reed, was nominated and selected to be the Recording Secretary to the Board of Education for 2024.

8.3. Select members of Board Committees

Members of the Board will choose which committees to participate in.

2023 Members

Negotiations:

- Jennifer Miller (Chair)
- Richard Luebbe
- Richard Stephens

Budget:

- Gary Wieseler (Chair)
- Jack Young
- Dawn Lindsley

Handbook:

- Dawn Lindsley (Chair)
- Joyce Baumert
- Bob Arp

Evaluation:

- Marni Danhauer (Chair)
- Joyce Baumert
- Jennifer Miller

Buildings and Grounds:

- Bob Arp (Chair)
- Doug Pauley
- Jack Young
- Joyce Baumert
- Jennifer Miller

Administrator Recommendations:

- Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the 2024 Negotiations Committee members as presented.
- Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the 2024 Handbook Committee members as presented.
- Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the 2024 Budget Committee members as presented.
- Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the 2024 Evaluation Committee members as presented.
- Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the 2024 Buildings and Grounds Committee members as presented.

Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the 2024 Committee members as presented except the Negotiations Committee, which has an additional member Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Doug Pauley.

- Bob Arp: Yea
- Joyce Baumert: Yea
- Marni Danhauer: Yea
- Karen Gomez: Yea
- Don Graff: Yea
- Dawn Lindsley: Yea
- Richard Luebbe: Yea
- Jennifer Miller: Yea
- Doug Pauley: Yea
- Richard Stephens: Yea
- Gary Wieseler: Yea
- Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 12, Nay: 0

Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the Negotiations Committee adding in Don Graff. Passed with a motion by Doug Pauley and a second by Jack Young.

- Bob Arp: Yea
- Joyce Baumert: Yea
- Marni Danhauer: Yea
- Karen Gomez: Yea

Don Graff: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 12, Nay: 0

Committee Membership is as follows:

Negotiations:

- Jennifer Miller (Chair)
- Richard Luebbe
- Richard Stephens
- Don Graff

Budget:

- Gary Wieseler (Chair)
- Jack Young
- Dawn Lindsley

Handbook:

- Dawn Lindsley (Chair)
- Joyce Baumert
- Bob Arp

Evaluation:

- Marni Danhauer (Chair)
- Joyce Baumert
- Jennifer Miller

Buildings and Grounds:

- Bob Arp (Chair)
- Doug Pauley
- Jack Young
- Joyce Baumert
- Jennifer Miller

9. Dissemination of Conflict of Interest Forms Annually, Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics forms will be disseminated to the Board for signature. Conflict of Interest forms were distributed to all board members.

10. **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 any action necessary to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to approve the consent agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Gary Wieseler.

Bob Arp: Yea
 Joyce Baumert: Yea
 Marni Danhauer: Yea
 Karen Gomez: Yea
 Don Graff: Yea
 Dawn Lindsley: Yea
 Richard Luebbe: Yea
 Jennifer Miller: Yea
 Doug Pauley: Yea
 Richard Stephens: Yea
 Gary Wieseler: Yea
 Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 12, Nay: 0

10.1. Minutes

This is a consent item.

10.2. Presentation of Bills #77351 through #77495 totaling \$887,318.97

The summary of bills for the current month total:\$887,318.97 - Bills

#77351 through #77495

Inservice bills total: \$75

	Amount	Vendor	Description
7736 2	\$15,778.3 9	Capital One	Tech/SPED/Grants travel and supplies/Board travel
7737 3	\$14,008.1 5	Dell Technologies	Technology School Equipment flow through
7738 0	\$8,049.01	ESU 1	Regional Transition Contract service
7739 0	\$10,335.0 0	Heartland Communications	Safety speakers throughout buildings

7740 7	\$8,685.00	Miotees Custom T-shirts	Latino Summit t-shirts
7742 8	\$5,352.60	State of NE DAS State Accounting	Network service charges

This is a consent item.

10.3. Reading of Article I, Section 1, F Unit Calendar

This is a consent item.

10.4. Reading of Article I, Section 3, B Filling Vacancies

This is a consent item.

10.5. Reading of Article I, Section 3, E Oath of Office

This is a consent item.

10.6. Reading of Article I, Section 3, F Code of Ethics for Board Members

This is a consent item.

10.7. Reading of Article I, Section 4, A Officer Positions

This is a consent item.

10.8. Reading of Article I, Section 4, B President

This is a consent item.

10.9. Reading of Article I, Section 4, C Vice President

This is a consent item.

10.10. Reading of Article I, Section 4, D Secretary

This is a consent item.

10.11. Reading of Article I, Section 4, E Treasurer

This is a consent item.

10.12. Reading of Article I, Section 4, F Recording Secretary

This is a consent item.

10.13. Reading of Article I, Section 5, A Committees

This is a consent item.

10.14. Reading of Article I, Section 5, C Temporary Committees

This is a consent item.

10.15. Reading of Article I, Section 5, D Committee Operations

This is a consent item.

10.16. Annual SPARQ Data Solution Dues The amount for the 2024-2025 SPARQ dues is: \$2,600.00.

This is a consent item.

10.17. Excess Lodging and Meals

Excess Lodging and Meals:

- The Board had excess travel to report:
 - AESA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California (November 29 - December 1, 2023)
 - Doug Pauley - \$294.99
 - Bob Arp - \$243.98
 - Marni Danhauer - \$307.74

This is a consent item.

11. January 2024 Board Spotlight - Learning Academy

Student Services Principal, Cara Neesen, will present the January Board Spotlight regarding the Learning Academy.

The Student Services Principal, Cara Neesen, reviewed the attached 23-24 Board Presentation. There are currently 22 students enrolled in the Learning Academy. There are three students on the way into the program, which means the Learning Academy will have 25 students within the next month. Four students are starting to transition back into their home district school. There have been six students who have successfully completed the Learning Academy program and fully transitioned back into their home district school. With the level system, when students get to the level prior to the transition plan, Principal Neesen is able to give the district school awareness and invite them to come to the Learning Academy to see how the student is doing. The district school is able to come as often as they would like. Principal Neesen makes sure the school feels like they are ready for the student before the transition takes place. With the students transitioning to their district schools, it is a long process and Principal Neesen wants them to be successful.

Principal Neesen discussed the bell schedule.

The Learning Academy has nine core values: gratitude, perseverance, engagement, integrity, responsibility, generosity, compassion, grace, and vulnerability.

Decisions at the Learning Academy are based on data. There is a data dashboard, which was created by Professional Development Coordinator, Otis Pierce, and Student Services Principal, Cara Neesen. District schools have access to data regarding the student(s) from their district almost immediately. The data dashboard is a great tool to have.

The Learning Academy has highly qualified staff. There are three teachers with their master's degree, with one working on their BCBA. Two staff members have their education specialist, with one having their BCBA. There are two therapists with their Licensed Mental Health Licences. There is specialized training for all staff, including MANDT practices and restorative justice practices. Principal Neesen wants to make

sure all staff have the resources they need to be successful. Board President Pauley mentioned there was a concern about finding the right staff when the Learning Academy first opened, so it is great to know the staff are so qualified.

Questions:

- Do you follow up with the students after they transition back into their district school? Yes, Principal Neesen follows up with the principals and asks how the student is doing, both academically and with their behavior.
- What is the age group of the students in the Learning Academy? It varies; the youngest is in 4th grade and there are others in junior high school.
- Is the Learning Academy close to capacity? Capacity is not just students per classroom, it is also determined by the scores the students receive. There is a weighted rubric. Each student gets a score in different areas. Principal Neesen wants to make sure the number of students in a classroom can be sustained by the teacher.
- How does the Learning Academy take on out-of-district students? The Learning Academy has served two out-of-district students before. One was a previous Learning Academy student who moved out-of-district. The other student moved out of state and when they moved back, the student was not having success in their district school. When there is a waiting list, students in-district take priority.
- Can you please spell out the acronyms? Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (LMHP)
- If a student is already a student in the Learning Academy, will they be removed if they move out-of-district? It is determined on a case-by-case basis with the best interest of the student in mind.
- Are any of the students court ordered? The Learning Academy is a Level III program, so students cannot be court ordered. There is an application process that has to be started by the school.
- Do you get testimonials from students who have successfully completed the program? This has been discussed as a possibility in the future.
- Other than the playground, what could make life easier at the Learning Academy? Really, the playground would be the biggest thing.

12. Treasurer's Report

Review the breakdown of the Treasurer's Report.

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

Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented Passed with a motion by Jennifer Miller and a second by Marni Danhauer.

Karen Gomez:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea

Don Graff: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea
Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

13. Virtual Conferencing for February 2024 Nebraska Revised Statute § 84-1411 authorizes virtual meetings for educational service units if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) are met. The board will determine if next month's board meeting should allow for a virtual conferencing option.

The Board voted to have a virtual conferencing option for the February 2024 board meeting.

14. **Designations**

14.1. Designate depository bank(s)

Authorized Depositories, Bonds, Disbursement of Funds requires the ESU 7 Board to annually authorize depositories for ESU 7 Funds. The checking accounts are currently at First National Bank, Columbus. The Board authorizes the Administrator and Board Treasurer to contact banks in the ESU area to invest money at the best rate.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to authorize First National Bank, Columbus as the depository bank, as presented.

Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to authorize First National Bank, Columbus as the depository bank, as presented Passed with a motion by Gary Wieseler and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Karen Gomez: Absent
Jennifer Miller: Abstain (Without Conflict)
Bob Arp: Yea
Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Don Graff: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 10, Nay: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain (Without Conflict): 1

First National Bank, Columbus, will continue to be the depository bank.

14.2. Designate Newspapers of Record

The Columbus Telegram is a newspaper of general circulation in all counties in the ESU 7 Area. Legal Notices as required will be reported in the Columbus Telegram.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to designate the Columbus Telegram as the ESU 7 newspaper of record.

Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to designate the Columbus Telegram as the ESU 7 newspaper of record Passed with a motion by Jack Young and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Karen Gomez: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Marni Danhauer: Yea

Don Graff: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Luebbe: Yea

Jennifer Miller: Yea

Doug Pauley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Gary Wieseler: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

The Columbus Telegram will continue to be the newspaper of record.

15. Mileage Reimbursement Rate

The IRS mileage reimbursement rate for January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024 is \$0.67 per mile.

Article III, Section 4, D Coffee Act Policy (Reimbursable Expenses)

Reimbursement of Expenses. The ESU will pay the registration costs, tuition costs, fees or charges for attendance by Board members at such approved functions. The ESU will pay mileage at the rate allowed by law (that is, the rate established by the Department of Administrative Services) or actual travel expense if travel is authorized by commercial or charter means. The ESU will pay for meals and lodging at a rate not exceeding the applicable federal rate unless a fully itemized claim is submitted substantiating the costs actually incurred in excess of such rate and such additional expenses are expressly approved by the Board.

For employees and volunteers, the ESU will pay costs and make reimbursements in the same manner as provided above for Board member attendance, unless otherwise established by policy, Board action, contract, or negotiated agreement.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the IRS mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.67 per mile for January 1, 2024-June 30, 2024 as presented.

Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the IRS mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.67 per mile for January 1, 2024-June 30, 2024 as presented
Passed with a motion by Doug Pauley and a second by Dawn Lindsley.

Karen Gomez: Absent
Bob Arp: Yea
Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Don Graff: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

16. ESU 7 2024-2025 General Unit Calendar

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, Consider and take any necessary action to approve the ESU 7 2024-2025 General Unit Calendar as presented.

Discuss, Consider and take any necessary action to approve the ESU 7 2024-2025 General Unit Calendar, changing the January 20, 2025 Board Meeting to January 21, 2025. Passed with a motion by Doug Pauley and a second by Richard Stephens.

Karen Gomez: Absent
Bob Arp: Abstain (Without Conflict)
Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Don Graff: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 10, Nay: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain (Without Conflict): 1

Martin Luther King Jr. day is January 20, 2025, so the board meeting will need to be moved to January 21, 2025. The approved calendar will reflect the change.

17. Coordinating Agency for ESU 7 Special Education Cooperative
ESU 7 continues to serve as the coordinating agency for the ESU 7 Special Education Cooperative for 2024-2025.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take any action necessary for ESU 7 to continue to serve as the coordinating agency for the ESU 7 Special Education Cooperative for 2024-2025.

Discuss, consider and take any action necessary for ESU 7 to continue to serve as the coordinating agency for the ESU 7 Special Education Cooperative for 2024-2025
Passed with a motion by Jack Young and a second by Doug Pauley.

Karen Gomez: Absent
Bob Arp: Yea
Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Don Graff: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

This allows ESU 7 to offer Special Education services to school districts.

18. **Administrator's Report General**

- Professional Development and Production/Print Shop Report - Director Ostmeyer
- Special Education Report - Director Clay
 - Richard Hight Presentation
- Technology Report - Director Ellsworth
 - Nebraska Cybersecurity Network Update
- 2024 Elections - These are the districts up for election in 2024:
 - Gary Wieseler - District 2
 - Richard Luebbe - District 4
 - Bob Arp - District 6
 - Doug Pauley - District 8
 - Marni Danhauer - District 10
 - Dawn Lindsley - District 12
- Upcoming Events

- NRCSA Legislative Forum in Lincoln, NE (February 20, 2024)
- NASB Amplified Finance/Budget & Finance Workshop in Lincoln, NE (March 5, 2024)
- NRCSA Spring Conference in Kearney, NE (March 14-15, 2024)
- NASB Amplified Finance/Budget & Finance Workshop in North Platte, NE (March 19, 2024)
- NASB Amplified Finance Workshop in Gering, NE (March 20, 2024)
- Future 2024 Events
 - NASB Area Membership Meeting in Fremont, NE (September 18, 2024)
 - NASA/NASB Labor Relations Conference in Lincoln, NE (October 2-3, 2024)
 - NASA/NASB State Education Conference in Omaha, NE (November 20-22, 2024)

Professional Development and Print Shop Report - Director Ostmeyer and the rest of the Professional Development Department had the opportunity to participate in High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) training. There is a process to see if textbooks are grade level appropriate. The first step when teachers receive new materials is to take the new textbooks out of the box and put the old textbooks in the box and send them off. The Professional Development (PD) department had a meeting earlier today and HQIM was discussed in depth. Board member Dawn Lindsley asked if anything was discussed about materials that are open source at the HQIM training. The HQIM training was strictly for HQIM and no other materials were discussed. The PD department also receives professional learning in order to provide professional development for teachers. Board President Doug Pauley asked if the PD department has done any artificial intelligence (AI) training with teachers. There is such rapid change with AI. Not only do teachers need to be trained in AI, but they also need to know how to vet the different AI platforms. The Print Shop is smooth sailing. The snow days caused a minor wrinkle. The Print Shop is getting closer to deploying a new order system. Board Secretary Jennifer Miller asked if the Print Shop uses any AI. Everything in the print shop is submitted print ready, so AI is not currently used in the print shop. During the service planning process a couple of years ago, the mention of having a graphic designer on staff came up, but it did not gain momentum. ESU 7 does have a staff member who is interested in graphic design.

Special Education Report - Director Clay provided the updated numbers for the expansion program. Currently, thirteen schools have signed the agreement and twelve schools have signed the resolution. Director Clay will start interviewing candidates for the new program tomorrow and will finish next week. Hiring decisions will be made by the first week of February. The Special Education department is hiring a few other positions. Currently, there are zero candidates for the Speech Language Pathologist position. Every other job opening, at least one candidate has applied. The Special Education Department has to be really aggressive in looking for qualified candidates. Director Clay is working on projections to determine if staffing levels need to change or remain the same for next school year. Administrator Polk talked about the presentation Richard Hight did for our Special Education program. Administrator Polk

approached Richard Hight at a conference she went to previously and asked if he would come to ESU 7 if he was ever close to Columbus, NE. Administrator Polk received notice just a few weeks later that Mr. Hight would be passing through, so the presentation was scheduled and announced very quickly. Mr. Hight provided an inspirational session, all while drawing a large picture in chalk, which will be hung up in the South Building.

Technology Report - Director Ellsworth discussed the cybersecurity grant. Tier one of the grant pays for staff. Director Ellsworth is on the interview team looking to hire an engineer and a trainer. Tier two is to purchase equipment. The desired equipment is for a state-wide logging system for cybersecurity. The logging system equipment is estimated to be about \$500,000.00. The grant requires 25% in-kind. The cybersecurity team would like to use service and time as their in-kind. There is a long-term concern about maintaining everything after the grant, since it is for three years. Director Ellsworth also discussed mobile device management. When schools went to one-on-one machines for their students, it became almost impossible for one tech employee to update one machine at a time. What mobile device management would do is allow the application or system to be pushed to hundreds of devices at one time. The schools currently have FileWave. Director Ellsworth is recommending schools transition to Mosyle. Moving from FileWave to Mosyle with 5,000-6,000 machines, would require the project to be done during the summer. Director Ellsworth is trying to lessen the burden posed to the schools. ESU 7 has become a certified reseller of Mosyle, the only reseller in Nebraska. The advantage of being a reseller is a commission, which will be given to the ESU 7 district schools as a discount. If all the ESU 7 district schools sign up for one-year, they will save a little over \$13,000.00 collectively. If the schools sign up for four years, they will save approximately \$60,000.00 collectively. Mosyle also does what Linewize does, so that may be a future transition project.

Administrator Polk reviewed the board members who are up for election in 2024 and asked anyone who is not going to run again, to please let her know.

Administrator Polk reviewed the upcoming events and noted the budget and finance training is very school specific and not ESU specific.

18.1. Goal Update

Goals - Attached for your Review

- Goal 1: 100% Complete
- Goal 2: 75% Complete
- Goal 3: 79% Complete
 - School District Board Meetings Completed:
 - David City - 10/10/2022
 - Osceola - 10/10/2022
 - East Butler - 10/12/2022
 - Boone Central - 11/14/2022
 - High Plains - 1/9/2023
 - Fullerton - 2/13/2023
 - Clarkson - 3/15/2023

- Central City - 3/15/2023
- Cross County - 5/8/2023
- Palmer - 9/11/2023
- Howells-Dodge - 10/11/2023
- Columbus Public - 11/13/23
- Humphrey - 11/13/23
- Lakeview - 12/11/23
- Leigh - 1/17/24
- Confirmed for February:
 - St. Edward - February 12, 2024 at 7:00pm
 - Administrator Polk
 - Board: Richard Stephens
 - Schuyler - February 12, 2024 at 6:30pm
 - Director Tami Clay
 - Board: Doug Pauley, Gary Wieseler, or Joyce Baumert
- Goal 4: 100% Complete

Director Clay and board member Richard Stephens will attend the St. Edward board meeting on February 12, 2024. Director Ostmeyer and board member Joyce Baumert will attend the Schuyler board meeting on February 12, 2024.

Administrator Polk reviewed the 2024-2025 Administrator Goals. Goal two requires learning sessions with the board. It was suggested to have two work sessions because extending the board meeting longer would be difficult. Administrator Polk and Secretary to the Board, Mindy Reed, will look at options and bring options to the February meeting.

18.2. Services Update

- SIMPL Update

Services Planned and Accessed



Data recorded by ESU 07 for the year August 2023 - July 2024 for all service categories.

- Update on the Boardsmanship Event - Discuss June 2024 Board Meeting Time
 - June 17, 2024 from 5:00pm-8:30pm
- Update on Regional PD Day in 2025
 - January 3, 2025 from 8:00am-4:00pm

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

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to change the June 17, 2024 board meeting time to begin at 3:30pm. Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to change the June 17, 2024 board meeting time to begin at 3:30pm Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Karen Gomez:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea
Don Graff:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Richard Luebbe:	Yea
Jennifer Miller:	Yea
Doug Pauley:	Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Gary Wieseler: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

The June 17, 2024 board meeting will start at 3:30pm.

18.3. Facilities Update

The Administrator will provide a facilities update during this item.

- Challenges with the HVAC system on January 16, 2024.

18.4. Legislative Update During this item, the Administrator will provide a Legislative Update to members of the Board. Administrator Polk mentioned a few legislative bills the board may want to follow. There are four bills which will affect ESUs and were not included on the attached document. Those bills are: LB 1414, LB 1241, LB 1417, and LB 951.

19. Committee Reports

19.1. Buildings and Grounds Committee Report The Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairperson will provide an update. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will be working on the planning.

Committee Recommendation: Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairperson Bob Arp discussed the topics from the last Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. A plaque is going to be purchased honoring Donald Ellison, with his picture on it. The plaque will be hung in the Oak conference room. Picnic tables for outside were discussed. The committee reviewed the different table options and configurations, and it was decided on circular tables with bench seats allowing for one wheelchair accessible side. Funding for the picnic tables is still being discussed. Table and chair acquisitions for the facility due to growth and wear out were also discussed. The Fire Marshal came to look through the South Building for the new program, and did not find anything major. The big question was adding another exit door from conference room A. Mike Kennedy from RVW will continue with the facility studies. There was a walk through for the HVAC project and the bid opening was prior to the board meeting. Administrator Polk and Board Treasurer Linda Shefcyk will review the budget with the attached bid tabulation and meet with the Buildings and Grounds Committee before the February board meeting. Bids came in higher than expected, board member Gary Wiesler asked why. Administrator Polk did not have an answer, but Mike Kennedy from RVW will attend the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting to discuss this. Board member Dawn Lindsley asked questions about the remarks on the bid tabulation. Administrator Polk explained there will be no temporary HVAC system once the old one is removed while the new unit is being installed. The HVAC project should start on April 1, 2024, and take 180 days to complete.

19.2. Negotiations Committee Report The Negotiations Committee Chairperson will provide an update.

Committee Recommendation: The Negotiations Committee Chairperson

Jennifer Miller let the board know the Negotiations Committee met prior to the board meeting. The committee is going to gather some additional information for the rest of the staff. The information will be discussed at the next Negotiations Committee meeting prior to the February board meeting.

20. Conference Report

Conference Attendees will report on their learnings.

- 2024 NASB Legislative Issues Conference
 - Administrator Polk
 - Jennifer Miller
 - Dawn Lindsley

Board member Dawn Lindsley stated the legislation hit an all-time high for bills introduced. With last year's carry-over bills and the new bills, there are 1,453 bills and every bill gets a hearing in Nebraska. Board member Dawn Lindsley is also on the NASB Legislative Committee, and they meet every Monday during the legislative session. Dawn has strong concerns about LB 1417 and eliminating the ESUCC. Dawn encouraged the board to be willing to share their voice, provide written testimony and even go to Lincoln if needed. The legislation tends to listen to board members and peers more so than others.

21. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mindy Reed, Recording Secretary to the ESU 7 Board.

NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT

84-1407. Act, how cited. Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public. It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret. Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

84-1409. Terms, defined. For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders, and (iii) the Judicial Resources Commission or subcommittees or subgroups of the commission;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Virtual conferencing means conducting or participating in a meeting electronically or telephonically with interaction among the participants subject to subsection (2) of section 84-1412.

84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as: (a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body; (b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices; (c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct; (d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting; (e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or (f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length. Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1)(a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; virtual conferencing authorized; requirements; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body.

(1)(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public. (b) (i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website. (ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published by: (A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website; or (B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city or village. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting. (iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public

body.(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee. (d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes. (e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2)(a) The following entities may hold a meeting by means of virtual conferencing if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) of this section are met: (i) A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, or an advisory committee of any such state entity; (ii) An organization, including the governing body, created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act; (iii) The governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state; (iv) The governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state; (v) An educational service unit; (vi) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council; (vii) An organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act; (viii) A community college board of governors; (ix) The Nebraska Brand Committee; (x) A local public health department; (xi) A metropolitan utilities district; (xii) A regional metropolitan transit authority; and (xiii) A natural resources district. (b) The requirements for holding a meeting by means of virtual conferencing are as follows: (i) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section, including providing access to a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference; (ii) In addition to the public's right to participate by virtual conferencing, reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend at a physical site and participate as provided in section 84-1412, including reasonable seating, in at least one designated site in a building open to the public and identified in the notice, with: At least one member of the entity holding such meeting, or his or her designee, present at each site; a recording of the hearing by audio or visual recording devices; and a reasonable opportunity for input, such as public comment or questions, is provided to at least the same extent as would be provided if virtual conferencing was not used; (iii) At least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting is available at any physical site open to the public where individuals may attend the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; and (iv) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision or subsection (4) of section 79-2204, no more than one-half of the meetings of the state entities, advisory committees, boards, councils, organizations, or governing bodies are held by virtual conferencing in a calendar year. In the case of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, the organization may hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by virtual conferencing. The governing body of a risk management pool that meets at least quarterly and the advisory committees of the governing body may each hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if the governing body's quarterly meetings are not held by virtual conferencing.

(3) Virtual conferencing, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(4) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(5) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by virtual conferencing. The provisions of subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(6) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness to appear before the public body by means of virtual conferencing.

(7)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (5) of this section, if an emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to the Emergency Management Act as defined in section 81-829.39, a public body the territorial jurisdiction of which is included in the emergency declaration, in whole or in part, may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing during such emergency if the public body gives reasonable advance publicized notice as described in subsection (1) of this section. The notice shall include information regarding access for the public and news media. In addition to any formal action taken pertaining to the emergency, the public body may hold such meeting for the purpose of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action by the public body. (b) The public body shall provide access by providing a dial-in number or a link to the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act. Reasonable arrangements shall be made to accommodate the public's right to hear and speak at the meeting and record the meeting. Subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting such meetings. (c) The nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes. Complete minutes of such meeting specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of section 84-1413. (8) In addition to any other statutory authorization for virtual conferencing, any public body not listed in subdivision (2)(a) of this section may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing if: (a) The purpose of the virtual meeting is to discuss items that are scheduled to be discussed or acted upon at a subsequent non-virtual open meeting of the public body; (b) No action is taken by the public body at the virtual meeting; and (c) The public body complies with subdivisions (2)(b)(i) and (2)(b)(ii) of this section.

84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, a camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings, including meetings held by virtual conferencing. A body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each

meeting, but it may not forbid public participation at all meetings.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body shall require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if: (a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction; (b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience; (c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making virtual conferencing available at an in-state location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance; (d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state; (e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act; and (f) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) Each public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at a meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the in-state location for virtual conferencing as required by subdivision (6)(c) of this section, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting, either in paper or electronic form. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when; agenda and minutes; required on website; when.

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written or kept as an electronic record and shall be available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing or keeping the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Beginning July 31, 2022, the governing body of a natural resources district, the city council of a city of the metropolitan class, the city council of a city of the primary class, the city council of a city of the first class, the county board of a county with a population greater than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and the school board of a school district shall make available on such entity's public website the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda shall be placed on the website at least twenty-four hours before the meeting of the governing body. Minutes shall be placed on the website at such time as the minutes are available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of this section. This information shall be available on the public website for at least six months.

84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

84-1415. Open Meetings Act; requirements; waiver; validity of action. No motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action made, adopted, passed, or taken at a meeting as defined in section 84-1409 of a public body as defined in such section shall be invalidated because such motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action was made, adopted, passed, or taken at a meeting or meetings on or after March 17, 2020, and on or before April 30, 2021, pursuant to a Governor's Executive Order which waived certain requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

Revised
4-2022



PERRY, GUTHRY, HAASE & GESSFORD, P.C., L.L.O.
233 South 13th Street, Suite 1400,
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 476-9200
perrylawfirm.com



Nebraska Council
of School Administrators
455 South 11th Street, Suite A
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 476-8055
ncsa.org

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Dan Hoesly was elected as a member of the Board for a term beginning January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2023, Dan Hoesly resigned as a board member, and the board accepted that resignation effective on January 1, 2024, thereby creating a vacancy; and

WHEREAS, NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-1217(2) provides for the remaining members of the board to fill the vacancy by appointment of an individual residing within the election district of the ESU for which the vacancy exists and meeting the qualifications for the office; and

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2024, the Board provided advance publicized notice of the meeting to be held on January 22, 2024, and the agenda for that meeting included the appoint of a new member to fill the vacancy; and

WHEREAS, Karen Gomez is a qualified registered voter of the election district of the ESU and has expressed an interest in ESU affairs; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That after due consideration of the qualifications of the candidate(s) and any public comments received, the Board appoints Karen Gomez to the Educational Service Unit No. 7 Board for the remainder of a term ending on December 31, 2026.
2. The board secretary, in collaboration with the Administrator, shall cause a copy of this resolution to be filed with the Secretary of State or county or township clerk.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of January, 2024.

Educational Service Unit No. 7

Board Member

Article I, Section 3, E Oath of Office

Board members before taking office shall take and sign the following oath or affirmation:

I, _____, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely and without mental reservations, or for purpose or evasions; and that I will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of member of the Board of Educational Service Unit No. 7, according to law, to the best of my ability. And I do further swear that I do not advocate, nor am I a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or this State by force or violence; and that during such time that I am in this position I will not advocate nor become a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or this State by force or violence. So help me God.

Legal Reference:	§ 11-101 to § 11-101.03
Date of Adoption:	January 15, 2018
Date of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

Article I, Section 3, F Code of Ethics for Board Members

Board members of ESU 7, like all public officers in the State, “stand in a fiduciary relationship to the people whom they have been elected or appointed to serve. As fiduciaries and trustees of the public wealth they are under an inescapable obligation to serve the public with the highest fidelity. In discharging the duties of their office they are required to display such intelligence and skill as they are capable of, to be diligent and conscientious, to exercise their discretion not arbitrarily but reasonably, and above all to display good faith, honesty and integrity. They must be impervious to corrupting influences and they must transact their business frankly and openly in the light of public scrutiny so that the public may know and be able to judge them and their work fairly. These obligations are assumed by them as a matter of law upon their entering public office.”

To assure that the entire Board acts in accordance with the foregoing legal responsibilities and to ensure the effective functioning of the Board, each Board member will sign a Board-approved Code of Ethics for ESU 7 Board Members (attached). The Code of Ethics is to be signed upon assumption of office and at each annual meeting.

Legal Reference:	<i>Nebraska Legislature on behalf of the State of Nebraska v. C. David Hergert, 271 Neb. 976, 1011 (2006)</i>
Date of Adoption:	January 15, 2018
Date(s) of Revision:	February 20, 2023
Date(s) of Review	January 18, 2021 January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

Code of Ethics for ESU 7 Board Members

Members of the Board of ESU 7 are expected to abide by the following Code of Ethics in performance of their duties as a Board member and will be requested to acknowledge their intent to do so:

1. **Follow Laws:** I will uphold and enforce the constitutions, laws, rules and regulations of the state and federal governments, the state and federal agencies, binding court orders pertaining to educational service units, and the policies and regulations of ESU 7. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.

2. **Non-Discrimination:** I will not make decisions which affect personnel, students, parents, the public, or otherwise on the basis of sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, or on the basis of constitutionally protected speech.

3. **Welfare of Students:** I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of students served by ESU 7 and will seek to develop and maintain services and programs that meet the individual needs of students served by the ESU regardless of their sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, social standing, or personal feelings not associated with the best interests of ESU 7 and the students.

4. **Role of the Board:** I will confine my action as a member of the Board to policy making, planning, and evaluation of the Administrator. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer ESU 7 or its services and programs, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run. I will refer all complaints which I may receive to the Administrator and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution. I will support decisions made by the Board, even if it is not the one I would have made, although I will reserve my independent right to seek a change using appropriate procedures. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board as a whole and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the Board.

5. **Meetings of the Board:** I will attend all meetings of the Board except when I am unable to attend for excusable reasons, will be prepared to be an active participant at such meetings, and will follow appropriate rules of order at such meetings. I will fulfill my responsibilities on any committees and any officer positions to which I may be elected, assigned or appointed. I will not attempt to circumvent the open meetings laws by participating in meetings with a quorum of other members of the Board to make decisions on ESU 7 matters. I will not seek closed session meetings or participate in closed session meetings except as permitted by law.

6. **Independent Judgment:** I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups.

7. **Confidentiality:** I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to ESU 7 which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals, the Board, or ESU 7. I will not ask for legally confidential information about staff or students when not required to fulfill my duties as a Board

member. When such information is made available to me in my role as a Board member, I will maintain the confidentiality of such information.

8. **Conflicts:** I will not use my position as a Board member for personal gain or for the gain of family or friends. Where I have a personal conflict of interest which affects or may be reasonably seen by others as affecting my ability to make a fair and impartial decision on a matter before the Board, I will follow the law and Board policy to avoid the conflict from affecting the decision of the entire Board.

9. **Personnel Matters:** I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the administration. I will support and protect personnel in the proper performance of their duties but likewise will hold staff accountable, on matters which reach the Board, to the standards and expectations of the Board and the administration.

10. **Role Model.** I understand that my personal actions may reflect on ESU 7 and the schools and communities served by ESU 7 due to my position as a Board member. I will in all respects serve as a proper role model and engage in conduct which is reflective of a good citizen in the communities served by ESU 7.

Agreed to by the members of the Board of Educational Service Unit 7 on this ___ day of _____, 20__.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



Regular Board of Education Meeting

Educational Service Unit 7, Oak Room

2657 44th Ave

Columbus, NE 68601-8537

Monday, December 18, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Posted Locations:

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

Posted Date: 12/11/2023

Attendance Taken at 5:32 PM.

Bob Arp: Present

Joyce Baumert: Present

Marni Danhauer: Present

Donald Ellison: Absent

Dan Hoesly: Present

Dawn Lindsley: Present

Richard Luebbe: Present

Jennifer Miller: Present

Doug Pauley: Present

Richard Stephens: Present

Gary Wieseler: Present

Jack Young: Present

Present: 11, Absent: 1.

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 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.

Roll call was taken at 5:31pm.
Board President conducted the meeting.

Staff present:

Larianne Polk, Administrator
Linda Shefcyk, Business Manager
Mindy Reed, Secretary to the Board of Directors
Marci Ostmeyer, Professional Development Director
Tami Clay, Special Education Director
Dan Ellsworth, Network Operations Director

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 member Donald Ellison will be absent.

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

Approval of Board Member absences as presented Passed with a motion by Jennifer Miller and a second by Doug Pauley.

Donald Ellison: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Marni Danhauer: Yea
Dan Hoesly: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

1.4. Pledge of Allegiance

All members present participated in the 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 any necessary action to approve agenda as presented.

Agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Jennifer Miller and a second by Marni Danhauer.

Donald Ellison: Absent
Bob Arp: Yea
Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Dan Hoesly: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

3. Virtual Conferencing for December 2023, January 2024, and February 2024

Nebraska Revised Statute § 84-1411 authorizes virtual meetings for educational service units if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) are met. The board will determine if next month's board meeting should allow for a virtual conferencing option.

The Board voted to have a virtual conferencing option for the following board meetings: December 2023, January 2024, and February 2024.

4. Welcome Visitors
No visitors present.

5. 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.
No public comments provided.

6. **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 any action necessary to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Consent agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Jack Young.

Donald Ellison:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea
Dan Hoesly:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Richard Luebbe:	Yea
Jennifer Miller:	Yea
Doug Pauley:	Yea
Richard Stephens:	Yea
Gary Wieseler:	Yea

Jack Young: Yea
Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

6.1. Minutes

This is a consent item.

6.2. Presentation of Bills #77208 through #77350 totaling \$912,025.86

The summary of bills for the current month total:\$912,025.86 - Bills #77208 through #77350

Inservice bills total: \$0

	Amount	Vendor	Description
77218	\$30,929.13	Capital One	Tech/SPED/Grants travel and supplies/Board travel
77229	\$20,740.76	Dell Technologies	Technology School Equipment flow through
77277	\$5,352.60	State of NE DAS State Accounting	Network service charges

This is a consent item.

6.3. Resignations

- Jeffrey Uchtman, NNNC Technology Analyst. His last day will be December 31, 2023.
- Ronelle Jackson, Licensed Mental Health Practitioner. Her last day will be May 17, 2024.

This is a consent item.

6.4. Excess Lodging and Meals

Excess Lodging and Meals:

- The Board and Administration had excess travel to report:
 - State Education Conference in Omaha, NE (November 15-17, 2023)
 - Doug Pauley - \$31.93
 - Bob Arp - \$11.84
 - Joyce Baumert - \$30.73
 - AESA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California (November 29 - December 1, 2023)
 - Larianne Polk - \$298.60

- Jack Young - \$266.31
 - Jennifer Miller - \$197.06
- The Professional Development Department had excess travel to report:
 - ACTE Conference in Phoenix, Arizona (November 28-December 2, 2023)
 - Brandy Thompson - \$162.97
 - Leaning Forward Conference in National Harbor, Maryland (December 3-6, 2023)
 - Mark Brady - \$178.15
 - Ernie Valentine - \$185.15

This is a consent item.

6.5. Reading of Article III, Section 8, A Disposal of Property

This is a consent item.

6.6. Reading of Article III, Section 9, A Records Management and Disposition

This is a consent item.

6.7. Reading of Article III, Section 9, B Student Records

This is a consent item.

6.8. Reading of Article III, Section 10, A Communications to the Board

This is a consent item.

6.9. Reading of Article III, Section 10, B Complaints or Concerns of Employees

This is a consent item.

7. Board Spotlight - Early Childhood Special Education

Lisa Duranski, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher will present the Early Childhood Special Education Spotlight to the board. Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator and Teacher Lisa Duranski presented the Early Childhood Special Education Spotlight. Lisa is in her 31st year of teaching. The Early Childhood department is divided into two domains: Early Development Network, which is for 0–2 years of age, and Early Childhood Special Education, which is for 3–5 years of age. A large portion of the job is finding young kids struggling as soon as possible. The challenge is notifying the family of the child's delays, which can be difficult and emotional. The Early Childhood Special Education caseloads are the largest they have ever been. This year is unique in that many of the referrals are children born during the COVID pandemic. Children did not get the same experience as other children prior to COVID.

There are currently ten staff members who serve 180 children in 18 school districts. The frequency of visits for each child varies based on their needs.

There is an EC Lending Library. The library offers supports or bridges towards the child's next skill, which schools can borrow on a short-term basis. Examples of some of the supports are grippers and scissors for fine motor supports, plates and spoons for feeding support, go talk for communication support and weighted vests for sensory support. If a student needs long-term support, the Early Childhood staff approach the school district to purchase the item. Early Childhood works with schools to help prepare them for incoming and or current students who may need assistance.

Questions asked during the board meeting:

- Where do referrals come from?
 - Referrals can come from many different people. For the preschool age, most referrals come from preschool teachers. For 0–2 years old, most of the referrals come from doctors and daycare providers. There is an entire committee for "Childfind" to get the word out, so there can hopefully be early detection for the child.
- What kind of training do your staff have?
 - There is very extensive training each employee has to go through. There is specific training on conducting home visits, family interviews, and assessments. The home visits, family interviews, and assessments are videotaped and scored. Each Early Childhood Special Education employee has either an Early Childhood and Special Education degree or a Unified Early Childhood degree.

8. Treasurer's Report

Review the breakdown of the Treasurer's Report.

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

Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Passed with a motion by Doug Pauley and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Donald Ellison: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Marni Danhauer: Yea

Dan Hoesly: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Luebbe: Yea

Jennifer Miller: Yea

Doug Pauley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea
Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

9. HVAC Bid Opening Date Set

Bids for the HVAC process will be immediately and simultaneously opened and read aloud in the presence of the bidders or representatives of the bidders at 2:00pm on January 22, 2024.

The bid opening for the North Building HVAC project is set to occur on January 22, 2024 at 2:00pm. The board does not need to be in attendance. The bid opening will consist of opening each bid and recording the information on a spreadsheet which is visible to all in attendance.

10. January 2024 Board Meeting Date

The ESU 7 Board of Education meeting is typically scheduled for the third Monday of the month, which in January would be January 15, 2024. There is a request to have the board meeting moved to the following Monday, January 22, 2024 to accommodate for the bid opening meeting, which will be the same day.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to move the January 2024 board meeting from Monday, January 15, 2024 to Monday, January 22, 2024.

Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to move the January 2024 board meeting from Monday, January 15, 2024 to Monday, January 22, 2024 Passed with a motion by Jennifer Miller and a second by Jack Young.

Donald Ellison: Absent
Dawn Lindsley: Abstain (Without Conflict)
Bob Arp: Yea
Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Dan Hoesly: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 10, Nay: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain (Without Conflict): 1

The January 2024 board meeting will be moved to January 22, 2024 at 5:30pm.

11. Authorization of the Administrator to Pay January Bills prior to the January Board Meeting

The ESU 7 Board of Education will meet on January 22, 2024. This Board action gives authority to the Administrator to pay the January bills prior to the January 22, 2024 board

meeting. The ESU 7 Board will approve these expenses in the January 22, 2024 board Meeting.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and authorize the Administrator to pay January bills prior to the January 22, 2024 board meeting.

Discuss, consider and authorize the Administrator to pay January bills prior to the January 22, 2024 board meeting Passed with a motion by Gary Wieseler and a second by Marni Danhauer.

Donald Ellison: Absent
Bob Arp: Yea
Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Dan Hoesly: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea
Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

The board meeting was approved to be moved to January 22, 2024. Bills need to be paid by January 20, 2024, so this would give the Administrator the authorization to pay the bills and then the board will review the bills at the January 22, 2024, board meeting.

12. Upcoming Board Vacancy - District 7

Board Member, Dan Hoesly, submitted his resignation on November 20, 2023. NEB. REV. STAT. § Section 32-562 requires the vacancy to be accepted by the rest of the board. Further, 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."

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to approve the resignation as District 11 Board Member submitted by Dan Hoesly. Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to approve the resignation as District 11 Board Member submitted by Dan Hoesly Passed with a motion by Jennifer Miller and a second by Dawn Lindsley.

Donald Ellison: Absent
Bob Arp: Yea
Joyce Baumert: Yea

Marni Danhauer: Yea
Dan Hoesly: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea
Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Board member Dan Hoesly submitted his resignation effective January 1, 2024. There is a potential candidate in district 7 who visited with Administrator Polk last week. Ideally, the vacancy will be filled within 45 days of the vacancy approval.

13. Board Vacancy - District 11

Board Member, Donald Ellison, submitted his resignation on November 21, 2023. NEB. REV. STAT. § Section 32-562 requires the vacancy to be accepted by the rest of the board. Further, 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."

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to approve the resignation as District 11 Board Member submitted by Donald Ellison. Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to approve the resignation as District 11 Board Member submitted by Donald Ellison Passed with a motion by Dawn Lindsley and a second by Jennifer Miller.

Donald Ellison: Absent
Bob Arp: Yea
Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Dan Hoesly: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea
Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Administrator Polk went to visit with board member Donald Ellison after the November 2023 board meeting. The decision to resign from the board was a difficult decision for Donald Ellison to make. Mr. Ellison will miss being on the board. The Buildings and Grounds Committee and ESU 7 leadership are looking into ways to dedicate the Oak/Maple conference room to Donald Ellison.

14. District 11 Board Applications

Applications have been received for the board vacancy in District 11. NEB. REV. STAT. § Section 79-1217(2) states that the appointee will serve "for the balance of the unexpired term" of the board spot that has been vacated. Applications were submitted by:

- Donn Graff, resides in the Osceola Public Schools district region.
- Steven Rinehart, resides in the Osceola Public Schools district region.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider, and vote to approve the resolution appointing _____ to the Educational Service Unit No. 7 Board position based on a vacancy for a term ending on December 31, 2026.

Discuss, consider, and vote to approve the resolution appointing Don Graff to the Educational Service Unit No. 7 Board position based on a vacancy for a term ending on December 31, 2026 Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Gary Wieseler.

Donald Ellison: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Marni Danhauer: Yea

Dan Hoesly: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Luebbe: Yea

Jennifer Miller: Yea

Doug Pauley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Gary Wieseler: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Two applications were received for the district 11 board vacancy. Administrator Polk read the Resolution out loud and the board voted on the candidate they would like to fill the vacant position. Director Ostmeyer and Director Clay tabulated the votes from the board. Candidate Steven Rinehart received 2 votes. Candidate Donn Graff received 9 votes.

15. **Administrator's Report General**

- ESUCC Update
- Professional Development and Production/Print Shop Report - Director Ostmeyer
- Special Education Report - Director Clay

- Technology Report - Director Ellsworth
 - Nebraska Cybersecurity Network Update
- Upcoming Events
 - NASB Legislative Issues Conference in Lincoln, NE (January 21-22, 2024)
 - NRCSA Legislative Forum in Lincoln, NE (February 20, 2024)
 - NRCSA Spring Conference in Kearney, NE (March 14-15, 2024)
- Future 2024 Events
 - NASB Area Membership Meeting in Fremont, NE (September 18, 2024)
 - NASB Labor Relations Conference in Lincoln, NE (October 9-10, 2024)
 - State Education Conference in Omaha, NE (November 20-22, 2024)

Administrator Polk reviewed the ESUCC Trivia with the board.

Special Education Report: Director Clay reported the Special Education Department has already started advertising and searching for employees for next year as there are a few positions to fill. The positions open for next year include three Speech Language Pathologists, a Resource Coach, an ASD Coordinator, a Licensed Mental Health Practitioner, a School Psychologist, and possibly one to two Paraprofessionals. The new Special Education expanded program was a priority again during the Superintendent and Principal meeting held on December 14, 2023. Nine districts have signed and submitted the Interlocal Agreement for the Special Education Building Project. The school districts and their boards are asking great questions about the expanded program. Staffing is being discussed, and furniture choices will be discussed in the near future. The expanded program will start in the Learning Academy and move over to the South Building when the project is complete. Director Clay will update the ESU 7 board monthly on the Special Education Expanded Program.

Administrator Polk met with the Fire Marshal to review the building specifications. The Fire Marshal had a few notes to consider. The next step is to hire an architect. The program space will be around 1,200 square feet. Administrator Polk will get in touch with RVW to start the building project process. Also, during the Superintendent and Principal meeting held on December 14, 2023, an alternative education program was mentioned. Administrator Polk will look at possible consortiums for online curriculum for schools.

Professional Development Report: Director Ostmeyer assisted in facilitating the Superintendent and Principal meeting held on December 14, 2023. The Superintendents and Principals were thorough in analyzing their data. They focused on the needs of their district. Scheduling for annual consultation visits is underway.

Director Ostmeyer would like to give a special shout out to the employees of the Print Shop. Director Ostmeyer is very proud of them. Last year during this time, the amount of orders to fulfill were stifling. This year, the Print Shop is on track with all orders.

Technology Report: Director Ellsworth and the rest of the Nebraska Cybersecurity Network (NCNE) met and receiving the grant funds looks promising. The grant is good for

three years. The position of NCNE Director has been filled. The NCNE will start recruiting for the engineer position. There has been conversation surrounding a statewide logging system.

Director Ellsworth is advocating collecting purposeful data, data which can be acted upon. Director Ellsworth has talked to school districts about signing up for the help desk system used by ESU 7 if the school has no formal help desk system in place, to accurately count the number of help desk issues a school encounters. There have been a number of schools sign up since Director Ellsworth started the conversation. School staff are also encouraged to go through the help desk system and not just email the tech person. There was a question regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how the Tech Department is preparing staff. Director Ellsworth explains to staff that AI is there to help and aid, not replace what is being done. The Professional Development (PD) department is addressing AI conversation with teachers.

15.1. Goal Update

Goals - Attached for your Review

- Goal 1: 100% Complete
- Goal 2: 75% Complete
- Goal 3: 74% Complete
 - School District Board Meetings Completed:
 - David City - 10/10/2022
 - Osceola - 10/10/2022
 - East Butler - 10/12/2022
 - Boone Central - 11/14/2022
 - High Plains - 1/9/2023
 - Fullerton - 2/13/2023
 - Clarkson - 3/15/2023
 - Central City - 3/15/2023
 - Cross County - 5/8/2023
 - Palmer - 9/11/2023
 - Howells-Dodge - 10/11/2023
 - Columbus Public - 11/13/23
 - Humphrey - 11/13/23
 - Lakeview - 12/11/23
 - Pending for January:
 - Leigh - January 17, 2024 at 6:30pm.
 - Director Tami Clay
 - Board member: Gary Wieseler
- Goal 4: 100% Complete

The Leigh Public School Board Meeting will be January 17, 2024. Administrator Polk and board member Gary Wiesler will attend.

The Lakeview Board Meeting, attended by Director Clay, Board President Doug

Pauley, and Board Secretary Jennifer Miller went well. The Lakeview Board of Education asked additional questions about the Special Education Expanded program.

15.2. Services Update

- SIMPL Update
- Quarterly Update
- Update on the Boardsmanship Event
 - June 17, 2024 from 5:00pm-8:30pm
- Update on Regional PD Day in 2025
 - January 3, 2025 from 8:00am-4:00pm

SIMPL Update: Administrator Polk and Director Ostmeyer presented a session at the AESA Annual Conference regarding SIMPL. There were 82 people in attendance at the session. There were multiple questions asked about SIMPL after the session from entities in Kansas, Iowa, Arkansas, Washington, and Minnesota. The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC) is addressing how to provide SIMPL across state lines.

The Boardsmanship event scheduled for June 17, 2024, will be half an hour longer than the previous event. The upcoming event is scheduled to start at 5:00pm and end at 8:30pm, which would necessitate the board meeting to be moved to an earlier time. The recommendation would be to start the board meeting at 3:00pm and end it at 4:00pm to give time to prepare for the event before additional guests arrive. The board will vote on the time change for June at the May 2024 board meeting. Administrator Polk will reach out to NASB again regarding sponsoring the Boardsmanship event. Administrator Polk will also reach out to Justin Knight from Perry Law Firm to present at the Boardsmanship and possibly sponsor the event.

The Regional PD Day is scheduled for January 3, 2025. Administrator Polk and the Agency Team will be asking for volunteers to present at the event. The goal is to provide professional development for the entire ESU 7 region. All 19 public schools are interested, confirmation of attendance will be gathered in the Spring. Administrator Polk talked with Superintendent of Columbus Public Schools, Dr. Troy Loeffelholz regarding using the Columbus High School facility for the event. Administrator Polk will work with Dr. Loeffelholz regarding a facilities use agreement. The Agency Team will communicate with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce regarding the project. The hope is for this event to turn into an annual event.

15.3. Facilities Update

The Administrator will provide a facilities update during this item.

- Parking lot - How parking is determined when there are large or multiple events.

Administrator Polk provided the board with an update on some space challenges at ESU 7. One of the challenges is parking space. When there are large events, ESU 7 staff are asked to park in Gerard Park to leave spots for the guests attending the event. As ESU 7 continues to grow, there will continue to be a parking space concern. There are 89 parking spots in the parking lot and there are over 100 employees. Parking is a pressure point because ESU 7 is landlocked. There is a covenant in Columbus regarding sewage and drainage which prohibits ESU 7 from adding any more concrete on the property. If an additional parking lot is decided, it would have to be graveled. Administrator Polk will reach out to the City Council to inquire about the covenant and see if there have been any changes.

15.4. Personnel

- New Hire:
 - Jade Podliska, Paraprofessional Intern. Starts January 3, 2024.
- Resignation:
 - Jayne Hoffmeister, Learning Academy Paraprofessional. Her last day will be December 21, 2023.

15.5. Legislative Update

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

January 3, 2024, starts the second session of the 108th Legislature. This second session will conclude on or near April 18, 2024. Bromm and Associates creates and updates a bill tracker which Administrator Polk will link in the legislative update document. Speaker Arch announced his 60-day schedule. Starting January 3, 2024, bills will be introduced for the first ten days of the session. Hearings start on January 22, 2024.

16. **Committee Reports**

16.1. Buildings and Grounds Committee Report

The Building and Grounds Committee met on December 13, 2023 with the architect for the HVAC project. Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairperson Bob Arp will provide an update.

The Buildings and Ground Committee met with an architect and RVW to talk about different options for the ESU 7 North Building HVAC project. The committee decided to have the equipment placed outside instead of inside and having to cut a hole in the roof of the North Building. Requests for bids will be going out, and the bid opening will be on January 22, 2024 at 2:00pm.

16.2. Negotiations Committee Report

The Negotiations Committee met on December 4, 2023, and December 11, 2023.

The Negotiations Committee recommends a 4% total package increase. The increase includes \$602 on the base, raising it from \$38,166 to \$38,768, and increasing the board's portion of health insurance paid from 100% single, which is \$10,179.72 to 60% of employee/child, which is \$11,299.39.

Committee Recommendation: Discuss, consider, and approve a 4% total package increase. This increase includes \$602 on the base, raising it to \$38,768, and increasing the board's portion of health insurance paid to 60% of employee/child, which is \$11,299.39.

Discuss, consider, and approve a 4% total package increase. This increase includes \$602 on the base, raising it to \$38,768, and increasing the board's portion of health insurance paid to 60% of employee/child, which is \$11,299.39, plus add a personal day to the ESUEA Negotiating Group for the one year agreement of 24-25 Passed with a motion by Jennifer Miller and a second by Richard Luebbe.

Donald Ellison: Absent
Bob Arp: Yea
Joyce Baumert: Yea
Marni Danhauer: Yea
Dan Hoesly: Yea
Dawn Lindsley: Yea
Richard Luebbe: Yea
Jennifer Miller: Yea
Doug Pauley: Yea
Richard Stephens: Yea
Gary Wieseler: Yea
Jack Young: Yea
Yea: 11, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

The Negotiations Committee met on December 4, 2023, and December 11, 2023. After the discussions with the ESUEA, the Negotiations Committee recommended a 4% total package increase. The increase includes \$602 on the base, raising it from \$38,166 to \$38,768, and increasing the board's portion of health insurance paid from 100% single, which is \$10,179.72 to 60% of employee/child, which is \$11,299.39, plus an additional personal day.

16.3. Administrator Evaluation Committee Report

The Administrator Evaluation Committee met on November 15, 2023, to discuss and compile the Administrator Evaluation results. Ten of twelve board members responded to the evaluation. The Administrator Evaluation Committee met with Administrator Polk on December 11, 2023, to discuss the results. Administrator Evaluation Committee Chairperson Marni Danhauer will provide any additional update.

Evaluation Timeline:

- **August:** Evaluation Committee Chair and Administrator review Evaluation Tool and Evaluation Policy/Procedures.
- **September:** Full Board is provided a paper copy of the evaluation questions.

- **October:** Administrator sends digital evaluation and evaluation resources to the Evaluation Committee Chair in the first week of October. The chair then forwards on to full Board for completion by October Board Meeting. Board will send their completed evaluation tool to the Evaluation Committee prior to the October Board Meeting. Administrator completes Evaluation Tool as self-assessment and sends it to Evaluation Committee Chair on or before October 31.
- **November:** Committee Chair will send the completed Administrator self-assessment to the full Board after November 1. Evaluation Committee compiles results of full Board completed evaluations prior to the November Board Meeting.
- **December:** Evaluation Committee meets prior to December Board Meeting to review with Administrator the results of evaluation. Report to full Board in December Board Meeting following Closed Session requirements with Administrator present.
- **January:** Confirm Evaluation Committee members. Administrator provides Evaluation Committee with goals and shares with Board at January Board Meeting. The Administrator Evaluation Committee met with Administrator Polk to go over the evaluation results. The committee discussed aligning the evaluation questions to match the ESU 7 mission, vision, and beliefs. Board Secretary Jennifer Miller requests every board member submit the administration's evaluation next year.

16.4. Administrator Intent to Extend

As per Administrator Dr. Polk's contract, the Administrator shall, between Dec 1 and Dec 31 of the contract year, give the president of the board the "Administrator's Note of Intent to Extend," which is a written notice that the Administrator intends to extend the contract which allows the Board of Education to renew this contract for a period up to three years and make adjustments on the annual total compensation each year of the contract.

Administrator Polk gave Board President Doug Pauley the "Administrator's Note of Intent to Extend."

17. Conference Report

Conference attendees will report on their experience at the AESA Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA.

- Larianne Polk
 - Visit from Minnesota
- Doug Pauley
- Jack Young
- Jennifer Miller
- Bob Arp
- Marni Danhauer

Board Secretary Jennifer Miller and board member Bob Arp attended multiple sessions regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI). Large language models (LLM) in AI are somewhat newer. There is so much language being entered into programs like ChatGPT. Board Vice President Jack Young added ChatGPT provides different information depending on what is

asked of it.

Board President Doug Pauley attended numerous sessions on diversity. Disney's strategic focus is on delivering exceptional experiences. Administrator Polk added the keynote speaker at the conference presented on diversity in a new and impactful way.

ESU 7 received a visit from an agency in Minnesota after the AESA Conference. The visitors were overwhelmed by the amount of data collected at ESU 7.

18. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mindy Reed, Recording Secretary to the ESU 7 Board.

Check Register Summary

Batch Year: 24 Bank: 10 Date Range:

Bank	Check	Type	Date	Vendor	Vendor Name	Amount
10	00077351	C	01/20/2024	10060	ADMINISTRATORS IN-SERVICE	75.00
10	00077352	C	01/20/2024	190428	ALMQUIST, MALTZAHN, GALLOWAY & LUTH PC	138.00
10	00077353	C	01/20/2024	10391	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES *	600.67
10	00077354	C	01/20/2024	10479	AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTR	470.00
10	00077355	C	01/20/2024	130180	AMY MAZANKOWSKI	406.10
10	00077356	C	01/20/2024	14079	ANNE MEEKER WATSON	2,500.00
10	00077357	C	01/20/2024	10681	APPLE COMPUTER, INC.	4,925.00
10	00077358	C	01/20/2024	388	APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES	320.00
10	00077359	C	01/20/2024	9156	ASHFALL FOSSIL BEDS	100.00
10	00077360	C	01/20/2024	14974	Allo Communications	170.00
10	00077361	C	01/20/2024	6700	BROOKE KAVAN	107.50
10	00077362	C	01/20/2024	30039	CAPITAL ONE-POLK	15,778.39
10	00077363	C	01/20/2024	30271	CENTRO HISPANO COMUNITARIO DE NEBRASKA	3,747.91
10	00077364	C	01/20/2024	30550	CITY OF COLUMBUS WATER & SANIT	366.52
10	00077365	C	01/20/2024	31023	COLUMBUS OPTIMIST CLUB	480.00
10	00077366	C	01/20/2024	31029	COLUMBUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS LUNCH FUND	1,697.40
10	00077367	C	01/20/2024	31462	CROSS COUNTY SCHOOL	210.00
10	00077368	C	01/20/2024	4812	CUBBY'S, INC.	263.69
10	00077369	C	01/20/2024	31290	CORNHUSKER MARRIOTT HOTEL	122.25
10	00077370	C	01/20/2024	80491	DAN HOESLY	62.23
10	00077371	C	01/20/2024	11711	DAWN LINDSLEY	753.65
10	00077372	C	01/20/2024	15202	DEAF SERVICES UNLIMITED	1,005.00
10	00077373	C	01/20/2024	14770	DELL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	14,008.15
10	00077374	C	01/20/2024	4456	DOUG PAULEY	623.63
10	00077375	C	01/20/2024	40725	EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS	239.60
10	00077376	C	01/20/2024	50825	ED SERVICE UNIT 7-PAYROLL	748,005.08
10	00077377	C	01/20/2024	14613	ELYSE BELINA	102.83
10	00077378	C	01/20/2024	70428	EMILY DELP	1,011.32
10	00077379	C	01/20/2024	50630	ERNST AUTO CENTER	185.34
10	00077380	C	01/20/2024	50640	ESU 1	8,049.01
10	00077381	C	01/20/2024	50645	ESU 2	990.00
10	00077382	C	01/20/2024	50652	ESUCC	825.00
10	00077383	C	01/20/2024	60056	FNBO	107.87
10	00077384	C	01/20/2024	13560	FLAGLER TECHNOLOGIES, LLC	896.00
10	00077385	C	01/20/2024	13684	FLEETCOR TECHNOLOGIES INC	25.22
10	00077386	C	01/20/2024	7510	GARY WIESELER	580.85
10	00077387	C	01/20/2024	7013	GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS	318.90
10	00077388	C	01/20/2024	11460	HAYLEY MURPHY	795.83
10	00077389	C	01/20/2024	80317	HEARTLAND COMMUNICATIONS	1,100.00
10	00077390	C	01/20/2024	80317	HEARTLAND COMMUNICATIONS	10,335.00
10	00077391	C	01/20/2024	4944	HOBBY LOBBY	12.61
10	00077392	C	01/20/2024	80543	HOMETOWN LEASING	499.04
10	00077393	C	01/20/2024	80880	HY-VEE	1,682.49
10	00077394	C	01/20/2024	4618	JENNIFER L. MILLER	516.59
10	00077395	C	01/20/2024	190486	JENNIFER SNYDER	400.00
10	00077396	C	01/20/2024	14869	JESSICA BRUGMAN	450.00
10	00077397	C	01/20/2024	12092	JESSICA OLNES	756.92
10	00077398	C	01/20/2024	6319	JOURNEYED.COM, INC.	2,459.86
10	00077399	C	01/20/2024	260092	JUDY A ZADINA	349.77
10	00077400	C	01/20/2024	12424	KASEYA US, LLC	1,921.50
10	00077401	C	01/20/2024	4839	KSB SCHOOL LAW	97.50
10	00077402	C	01/20/2024	120314	LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR	16.45
10	00077403	C	01/20/2024	40545	LISA DURANSKI	464.40
10	00077404	C	01/20/2024	120550	LOUP POWER DISTRICT	2,144.83
10	00077405	C	01/20/2024	130070	MAILBOX, THE	34.54
10	00077406	C	01/20/2024	130378	MENARDS	75.87
10	00077407	C	01/20/2024	11355	MIOTEES CUSTOM T-SHIRTS	8,685.00
10	00077408	C	01/20/2024	130547	MNJ TECHNOLOGIES	1,125.00
10	00077409	C	01/20/2024	140066	NE ASSOC OF SCHOOL BOARDS	450.00
10	00077410	C	01/20/2024	140351	NCSA	190.00
10	00077411	C	01/20/2024	140570	NEBRASKA TECHNOLOGY & TELECOM.	143.20
10	00077412	C	01/20/2024	140525	NRCSA	320.00

Check Register Summary

Batch Year: 24 Bank: 10 Date Range:

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10	00077414	C	01/20/2024	12122	One Source The Background Check Company	30.00
10	00077415	C	01/20/2024	80130	PEARSON ASSESSMENT	211.47
10	00077416	C	01/20/2024	160095	PERRY,GUTHERY, HAASE& GESSFORD P.C.,L.L.	425.60
10	00077417	C	01/20/2024	160450	PIZZA RANCH	114.95
10	00077418	C	01/20/2024	21001	RACHEL BURGESS	100.00
10	00077419	C	01/20/2024	13129	RED RIVER PRESS INC	570.00
10	00077420	C	01/20/2024	1260	RICHARD LUEBBE	107.69
10	00077421	C	01/20/2024	11703	ROBERT ARP	456.92
10	00077422	C	01/20/2024	14052	SAMANTHA TOMERLIN	40.00
10	00077423	C	01/20/2024	981	SARAH WACHA	615.70
10	00077424	C	01/20/2024	15199	SENSATIONAL BRAIN LLC	224.95
10	00077425	C	01/20/2024	8524	SHAYNA CEPEL	471.60
10	00077426	C	01/20/2024	190396	SHERWIN WILLIAMS	120.64
10	00077427	C	01/20/2024	190557	SOUTHWEST BINDING & LAMINATING	995.00
10	00077428	C	01/20/2024	190850	STATE OF NEBRASKA DAS STATE ACCTG.	5,352.60
10	00077429	C	01/20/2024	191085	SUPER SAVER	298.79
10	00077430	C	01/20/2024	200606	U & I SANITATION	112.25
10	00077431	C	01/20/2024	10320	VERIZON WIRELESS	1,063.36
10	00077432	C	01/20/2024	13420	WOODRIVER ENERGY LLC	1,382.19
10	00077433	A	01/20/2024	13897	ADILENE PEREZ	930.50
10	00077434	A	01/20/2024	14494	ALEXUS HITZ	275.10
10	00077435	A	01/20/2024	190945	STUTHMAN ENTERPRISES LLC	3,888.15
10	00077436	A	01/20/2024	120155	AMY J SLAMA	206.33
10	00077437	A	01/20/2024	14710	AMY RICHARDS	238.33
10	00077438	A	01/20/2024	10030	ANA KAREN GARCIA MEDINA	200.43
10	00077439	A	01/20/2024	1082	ANGEL D MAYBERRY	140.17
10	00077440	A	01/20/2024	250100	ANGELA ARNDT	178.82
10	00077441	A	01/20/2024	40709	ANN DUBAS	125.76
10	00077442	A	01/20/2024	990	BRANDY ROSE	269.86
10	00077443	A	01/20/2024	14621	CALVIN FREY	857.51
10	00077444	A	01/20/2024	13528	CARA NEESEN	206.98
10	00077445	A	01/20/2024	5967	CASSANDRA RUTH	483.39
10	00077446	A	01/20/2024	9512	CASSIE KRINGS	565.92
10	00077447	A	01/20/2024	13510	CHRISTINA HANCOCK	309.82
10	00077448	A	01/20/2024	14648	CRYSTAL VAN WINKLE	645.83
10	00077449	A	01/20/2024	180474	DARLENE RODRIGUEZ	655.66
10	00077450	A	01/20/2024	14001	DEVON GRONENTHAL	187.33
10	00077451	A	01/20/2024	50570	DONALD ELLISON	200.69
10	00077452	A	01/20/2024	14060	DYLAN SOUTHARD	200.43
10	00077453	A	01/20/2024	60033	ELISSA HEIBEL	26.20
10	00077454	A	01/20/2024	14575	ERNIE VALENTINE	18.30
10	00077455	A	01/20/2024	7560	ESI HOSTED SERVICES	172.31
10	00077456	A	01/20/2024	7099	HALEY KUNZE	375.97
10	00077457	A	01/20/2024	20135	ISAURA BARRETO	1,074.38
10	00077458	A	01/20/2024	4294	JACK YOUNG	378.11
10	00077459	A	01/20/2024	8559	JACLYN TERNUS	110.04
10	00077460	A	01/20/2024	14745	JAEDYN MORRIS	657.62
10	00077461	A	01/20/2024	15040	JEFF UCHTMAN	404.14
10	00077462	A	01/20/2024	11223	JILL WIELGUS	351.74
10	00077463	A	01/20/2024	8540	JOLYNN KAHLANDT	598.67
10	00077464	A	01/20/2024	11932	JOSH ARIAS	358.94
10	00077465	A	01/20/2024	4600	JOYCE A. BAUMERT	445.99
10	00077466	A	01/20/2024	6459	KAISE RECEK	151.96
10	00077467	A	01/20/2024	14478	KASSANDRA CORNWELL	854.78
10	00077468	A	01/20/2024	100521	KRIS JOHNSON	55.68
10	00077469	A	01/20/2024	160636	LARIANNE POLK	54.82
10	00077470	A	01/20/2024	13480	LETISHIA KLEINSCHMIT	274.45
10	00077471	A	01/20/2024	190434	LORI SIMANEK	452.50
10	00077472	A	01/20/2024	13986	LYNNE WEBSTER	979.89
10	00077473	A	01/20/2024	2267	MARCIA OSTMEYER	150.32
10	00077474	A	01/20/2024	11797	MARIA RODRIGUEZ	421.17

Check Register Summary

Batch Year: 24 Bank: 10 Date Range:

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10	00077477	A	01/20/2024	11479	MEGAN WELCH	353.05
10	00077478	A	01/20/2024	11479	MEGAN WELCH	209.60
10	00077479	A	01/20/2024	14656	MERIDITH RIHA	100.00
10	00077480	A	01/20/2024	12246	MERRIDIE KAUP	478.15
10	00077481	A	01/20/2024	13498	RACHEL BUETTNER	289.51
10	00077482	A	01/20/2024	190888	RICHARD STEPHENS	1,122.41
10	00077483	A	01/20/2024	30268	SANDY CERNY	415.27
10	00077484	A	01/20/2024	130708	SHARON M BROWN	763.08
10	00077485	A	01/20/2024	10740	SHELLI EICKMEIER	563.30
10	00077486	A	01/20/2024	12165	STEPHANIE FOREMAN	458.06
10	00077487	A	01/20/2024	13447	SUSAN OLMER	17.82
10	00077488	A	01/20/2024	11436	TAMRA CLAY	197.16
10	00077489	A	01/20/2024	13536	TERI OPFER	762.42
10	00077490	A	01/20/2024	140691	THE HOME DEPOT PRO	30.98
10	00077491	A	01/20/2024	70018	VANESSA GASCON-GUARCAS	126.42
10	00077492	A	01/20/2024	230361	WENDY WOLFE	516.14
10	00077493	A	01/20/2024	10545	YARIBEY RODRIGUEZ	759.15
10	00077494	A	01/20/2024	4650	MELINDA VELECELA	459.16
10	00077495	A	01/20/2024	8788	NATHALIE VARGAS	471.60

Total Bank: 10 \$887,318.97

Total Computer Checks:	\$858,063.22
Total Manual Checks:	\$0.00
Total ACH Checks:	\$29,255.75
Total Other Checks:	\$0.00
Total Electronic Checks:	\$0.00
Total Computer Voids:	\$0.00
Total Manual Voids:	\$0.00
Total ACH Voids:	\$0.00
Total Other Voids:	\$0.00
Total Electronic Voids:	\$0.00
Grand Total:	\$887,318.97
Number of Checks:	145

Batch Year	Batch	Amount
24	000126	72,309.19
24	000130	27,959.92
24	000135	38,114.02
24	000145	748,005.08
24	000150	930.76

	Transaction/Explanation	Receipt	Expenditures	Balance
11/22/23	Deposit - Memorial, tire fees	\$104.00		\$7,747.58
1/3/24	Deposit - Memorial		\$75.00	\$7,672.58
		Expenditures	\$75.00	

Article I, Section 1, F Unit Calendar

It shall be the responsibility of the Administrator to develop the ESU calendar for recommendation, approval, and adoption by the Board annually. The Educational Service Unit 7 Board of Education by the May meeting, will adopt a Unit calendar for the following year.

The Board may amend the official ESU calendar when the Board considers the change to be in the best interest of the ESU's service plan.

Legal Reference:	§
Date of Revision:	May 18, 2020 February 20, 2023
Date(s) of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

Article I, Section 3, B Filling Vacancies

Whenever a vacancy occurs on the Board, the remaining members of the Board shall appoint an individual residing within the election district for which the vacancy exists who meets the qualifications for the office to fill such vacancy for the balance of the unexpired term.

A “vacancy” may occur when, unless excused by a majority of the remaining members of the Board, a member is absent from the geographical boundaries of ESU 7 for a continuous period of sixty days at one time or from more than two consecutive regular meetings of the Board.

In all cases, the Board member must notify the Administrator or Board President, prior to the Board Meeting, with the reason for absence in order to be considered for an excused absence.

Legal Reference:	§ 79-1217(2)
Date of Adoption:	January 15, 2018
Date(s) of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

Article I, Section 3, E Oath of Office

Board members before taking office shall take and sign the following oath or affirmation:

I, _____, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely and without mental reservations, or for purpose or evasions; and that I will faithfully and impartially perform the duties of the office of member of the Board of Educational Service Unit No. 7, according to law, to the best of my ability. And I do further swear that I do not advocate, nor am I a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or this State by force or violence; and that during such time that I am in this position I will not advocate nor become a member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or this State by force or violence. So help me God.

Legal Reference:	§ 11-101 to § 11-101.03
Date of Adoption:	January 15, 2018
Date of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

Article I, Section 3, F Code of Ethics for Board Members

Board members of ESU 7, like all public officers in the State, “stand in a fiduciary relationship to the people whom they have been elected or appointed to serve. As fiduciaries and trustees of the public wealth they are under an inescapable obligation to serve the public with the highest fidelity. In discharging the duties of their office they are required to display such intelligence and skill as they are capable of, to be diligent and conscientious, to exercise their discretion not arbitrarily but reasonably, and above all to display good faith, honesty and integrity. They must be impervious to corrupting influences and they must transact their business frankly and openly in the light of public scrutiny so that the public may know and be able to judge them and their work fairly. These obligations are assumed by them as a matter of law upon their entering public office.”

To assure that the entire Board acts in accordance with the foregoing legal responsibilities and to ensure the effective functioning of the Board, each Board member will sign a Board-approved Code of Ethics for ESU 7 Board Members (attached). The Code of Ethics is to be signed upon assumption of office and at each annual meeting.

Legal Reference:	<i>Nebraska Legislature on behalf of the State of Nebraska v. C. David Hergert, 271 Neb. 976, 1011 (2006)</i>
Date of Adoption:	January 15, 2018
Date(s) of Revision:	February 20, 2023
Date(s) of Review	January 18, 2021 January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

Code of Ethics for ESU 7 Board Members

Members of the Board of ESU 7 are expected to abide by the following Code of Ethics in performance of their duties as a Board member and will be requested to acknowledge their intent to do so:

1. **Follow Laws:** I will uphold and enforce the constitutions, laws, rules and regulations of the state and federal governments, the state and federal agencies, binding court orders pertaining to educational service units, and the policies and regulations of ESU 7. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.

2. **Non-Discrimination:** I will not make decisions which affect personnel, students, parents, the public, or otherwise on the basis of sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, or on the basis of constitutionally protected speech.

3. **Welfare of Students:** I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of students served by ESU 7 and will seek to develop and maintain services and programs that meet the individual needs of students served by the ESU regardless of their sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, social standing, or personal feelings not associated with the best interests of ESU 7 and the students.

4. **Role of the Board:** I will confine my action as a member of the Board to policy making, planning, and evaluation of the Administrator. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer ESU 7 or its services and programs, but, together with my fellow board members, to see that they are well run. I will refer all complaints which I may receive to the Administrator and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution. I will support decisions made by the Board, even if it is not the one I would have made, although I will reserve my independent right to seek a change using appropriate procedures. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board as a whole and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the Board.

5. **Meetings of the Board:** I will attend all meetings of the Board except when I am unable to attend for excusable reasons, will be prepared to be an active participant at such meetings, and will follow appropriate rules of order at such meetings. I will fulfill my responsibilities on any committees and any officer positions to which I may be elected, assigned or appointed. I will not attempt to circumvent the open meetings laws by participating in meetings with a quorum of other members of the Board to make decisions on ESU 7 matters. I will not seek closed session meetings or participate in closed session meetings except as permitted by law.

6. **Independent Judgment:** I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups.

7. **Confidentiality:** I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to ESU 7 which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals, the Board, or ESU 7. I will not ask for legally confidential information about staff or students when not required to fulfill my duties as a Board

member. When such information is made available to me in my role as a Board member, I will maintain the confidentiality of such information.

8. **Conflicts:** I will not use my position as a Board member for personal gain or for the gain of family or friends. Where I have a personal conflict of interest which affects or may be reasonably seen by others as affecting my ability to make a fair and impartial decision on a matter before the Board, I will follow the law and Board policy to avoid the conflict from affecting the decision of the entire Board.

9. **Personnel Matters:** I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the administration. I will support and protect personnel in the proper performance of their duties but likewise will hold staff accountable, on matters which reach the Board, to the standards and expectations of the Board and the administration.

10. **Role Model.** I understand that my personal actions may reflect on ESU 7 and the schools and communities served by ESU 7 due to my position as a Board member. I will in all respects serve as a proper role model and engage in conduct which is reflective of a good citizen in the communities served by ESU 7.

Agreed to by the members of the Board of Educational Service Unit 7 on this ___ day of _____, 20__.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Section 4 - Board Officers

Article I, Section 4, A Officer Positions

Annually, the Board shall elect one of its members as president, one as vice president, and one as secretary in the January meeting. The Board shall employ a secretary and a treasurer who shall be paid a salary to be fixed by the board.

Legal Reference:	§ 79-1218
Date of Adoption:	December 18, 2017
Date(s) of Review:	January 18, 2021 January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

Article I, Section 4, B President

The duties and responsibilities of the President include the following:

1. Call meetings of the Board.
2. Preside at all meetings of the Board.
3. Appoint board members to committees.
4. Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees, unless such would create a violation of the open meetings law.
5. Send correspondence connected to the position of President.
6. Vote on any issue that may come before the Board.
7. Sign warrants upon the treasury for claims allowed by the Board.
8. Perform such other duties as required by law or by action of the Board.

Legal Reference:	§ 79-1218; § 79-1221
Date of Adoption:	December 18, 2017
Date(s) of Review:	January 18, 2021 January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

Article I, Section 4, C Vice President

The Vice President is to assume all duties and responsibilities of the President when the President is absent.

Legal Reference:	§ 79-1218; § 79-1221
Date of Adoption:	December 18, 2017
Date(s) of Review:	January 18, 2021 January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

Article I, Section 4, D Secretary

The duties and responsibilities of the Secretary include the following:

1. Assure that accurate records of all Board meetings are prepared and maintained.
2. Assure that all Board members are notified of all meetings of the Board.
3. Assure that required reports to county, state, and federal officials are prepared and submitted on a timely basis.
4. Be responsible for correspondence for and in the name of ESU 7 as authorized by the Board.
5. Sign all orders on the treasury for the payment of authorized claims.
6. Act as custodian of all documents, title papers, and records of the Board.
7. Assure that all legal notices are published.

Legal Reference:	§ 79-1218; § 79-1221
Date of Adoption:	December 18, 2017
Date(s) of Review:	January 18, 2021 January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

Article I, Section 4, E Treasurer

The Board shall employ a Treasurer who shall be paid a salary to be fixed by the Board. The duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer include the following:

1. Be the custodian of all funds of the Board.
2. Attend all meetings of the Board.
3. Prepare and submit to the Board a written monthly report of the state of ESU 7 finances.
4. Pay out money of the Board only upon a warrant signed by the President, or in the President's absence, by the Vice President, and countersigned by the secretary.
5. Assure that funds are placed in depositories approved by the Board and secured as required by law.
6. Assure that accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements are kept.
7. Assure that accurate reports on the state of finances and other financial reports and statements as required by state and federal statute and board policy are prepared and submitted to the appropriate authority on a timely basis.

The treasurer shall give bond or evidence of equivalent insurance coverage, payable to the Board, in such sum as the Board shall determine conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties as treasurer of the Board and for the safekeeping and proper disbursement of all funds of the Board collected or received by the treasurer. Such bond shall be signed by a corporate surety company or insurance company authorized to do business within this state. Such bond or insurance coverage may be enlarged at any time the Board deems such enlargement necessary or advisable. The cost of such bond or insurance coverage shall be paid out of funds of the Board.

Legal Reference:	§ 79-1218; § 79-1221
Date of Adoption:	December 18, 2017
Date(s) of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

Article I, Section 4, F Recording Secretary

The Board may employ a recording secretary who shall be paid compensation to be fixed by the Board. The duties of the recording secretary will include:

1. Notify members of the Board of all regular and special meetings.
2. Publish legal notices.
3. Keep accurate records of all Board meetings.
4. Act as custodian of all documents and records of the meeting of the Board.
5. Perform other duties as directed by the Board.

Legal Reference:	
Date of Adoption:	December 18, 2017
Date(s) of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

Section 5 - Board Committees

Article I, Section 5, A Committees

Committees may be created by the President of the Board or by a majority vote of the Board.

Unless otherwise specifically provided, at the time of appointment, all Committees are hereby intended to be and shall operate as a “subcommittee” within the definition of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1409(1)(b). As such, no meeting of any Committee may include a quorum of the Board. In addition, no Committee may hold hearings, make policy, or take formal action on behalf of the Board.

Legal Reference:	§ 84-1409
Date of Adoption:	February 19, 2018
Date(s) of Review:	January 18, 2021 January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

Article I, Section 5, C Temporary Committees

Temporary committees may be established by the Board as deemed necessary for specific identified purposes.

Legal Reference:	
Date of Adoption:	February 19, 2018
Date(s) of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

Article I, Section 5, D Committee Operations

No member or Committee of the Board, or staff member of the Unit, shall have the power to act for the Board, or to imply an action on the part of the Board without specific approval authorized by the Board with record of such action recorded in the official minutes.

The Board or Administrator may refer business to a Committee; however, unless otherwise specifically provided, such Committee shall have no power or authority to hold hearings, make policy, or to make any determination or take or effect any formal action on behalf of the Board or the District. The role of a Committee is to gather and serve as an informational avenue only and to guide, make recommendations, and report directly to the Administrator on any referred business, regardless of who appointed same.

All Board members will be informed of meetings of Committees. Committee reports shall be brought to the Board in written form whenever possible.

Legal Reference:	
Date of Adoption:	February 19, 2018
Date(s) of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024



INVOICE

Sparq Data Solutions

INVOICE #: 3308
DATE: 12/18/2023

1301 Stockwell St
Suite 100
Lincoln, NE 68502

BILL TO: ESU 7
2657 44th Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601

SHIP TO: ESU 7
2657 44th Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601

PAYMENT TERMS	DUE DATE
Due on receipt	01/17/2024

QTY	UNIT	MEMO	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
1	Each	Sparq Meeting Subscription effective April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00
			Subtotal	\$2,600.00
			Total	\$2,600.00

Learning Academy

2023-2024
Board Presentation

Learning Academy Staff



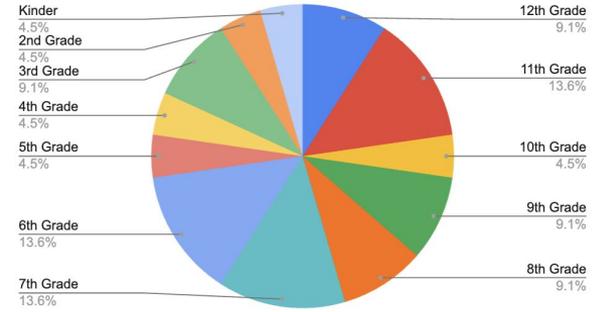
This is Us....



Learning Academy Enrollment Status

	Currently Enrolled	Coming - Needs IEP	Apps In-Progress	Inquiries
Boone Central	1			
Clarkson	1			
Centennial				
Central City				
CPS	8		1	3
Cross County	1			
David City	4		1	
Fullerton				
High Plains	0			1
Howells-Dodge	1			
Humphrey	3			
Twin River		1		
LakeView	2			
Leigh				
Palmer				
Osceola				
SRC				2
St. Edwards				
Schuyler				
Out of District	1			1
Current Totals	22	1	2	7

Number of Students



Current Enrollment - 22

Number of Students in the Transition Process - 4

Students Successfully Completed the Program - 6

Our Facilities

Wholeness Room

Activity Center

4 Classrooms

LMHP Room

Dignity Rooms

Kitchen

Transportation Fleet

Playground - Wish List

LA Master Schedule				
	Classroom 1 (Brooke)	Classroom 2 (Lindy)	Classroom 3 (Anne)	Gym Schedule
9:20	Check-In	Check-In	Check-In	Check-In
9:30				
9:45	Morning Gathering	Morning Gathering	Morning Gathering	C7 Use
10:00	SEL	Academic Work	Academic Work	9:45-10:15
10:15				
10:30	Academic Work		PE	
10:45				
11:00		PE	Academic Work	IN
11:15				USE
11:30		Academic Work	Lunch	BY
11:45			11:30-11:55	LA
12:00	Lunch		Recess	
12:15	12:00-12:25			
12:30	Academic Work	Lunch	SEL	
12:45		12:30-12:55		
1:00	PE	SEL	Academic Work	
1:15			(Clubs)	
1:30	Academic Work	Academic Work		C7 Use
1:45	(Clubs)	(Clubs)		1:30-2:00
2:00	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	
2:15	and	and	and	Locker Room
2:30	Check Out	Check Out	Check Out	Dismissal
	* Once a week, SEL is a Community Circle in your classroom			



Learning Academy's Core Values



Gratitude
Perseverance
Engagement
Integrity
Responsibility
Generosity
Compassion
Grace
Vulnerability

What Makes Learning Academy Different from Others....

- Customized Programming to Each Student
- Restorative Justice Practices
- Data Driven
 - Data Dashboard
- Highly Qualified Staff
 - 3 Teachers with their Masters Degree
 - One working on their BCBA
 - 2 staff with their Education Specialist
 - One with their BCBA
 - 2 therapists with their Licensed Mental Health Licences
 - Specialized Training for all staff

December '23 Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance DECEMBER 1, 2023			\$79,692.84		
RECEIPTS					
Property taxes			\$13,041.97		
SPED			\$648,490.26		
General/Flow Through			\$141,405.52		
Grants			\$135,275.58		
TOTAL RECEIPTS			\$938,213.33	\$938,213.33	
				\$1,017,906.17	
Transfer to Money Market				\$20,000.00	-
Total Funds Available				\$997,906.17	
DISBURSEMENTS:					
General Fund			\$307,464.09		
SPED			\$426,920.10		
Grants			\$176,919.97		
Total DISBURSEMENTS Check #76865 thru #77025			\$911,304.16	\$911,304.16	-
Ending balance, DECEMBER 31, 2023				\$86,602.01	

Checking balance					\$86,602.01
Money Market Deposit Account at First National Bank					\$3,610,000.00
Money Market Deposit Account at First National Bank					\$100,000.00
Money Market Deposit Account at Bank of Clarks					\$100,000.00
Money Market Deposit Account at Columbus Bank & Trust					\$100,000.00
Certificate of Deposit - Great Western Bank					\$200,000.00
Certificate of Deposit - First National Bank-Columbus					\$100,000.00
Certificate of Deposit - First National Bank-Columbus					\$1,000,000.00
TOTAL CASH ON HAND (includes cash reserve)					\$5,296,602.01
CASH RESERVE	\$1,487,587.48				
Funds that are due to ESU 7					
Grants				(\$1,777,917.30)	
Production/Art Media Accounts Receivable			(\$15,850.25)		
Network Support Accounts Receivable			(\$2,010.93)		
Misc. Flow thru Accounts Receivable			(\$78,384.46)		
Outstanding Receivables				(\$96,245.64)	
Total due to ESU 7				(\$1,874,162.94)	

	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24		
	Dollars Spent Per Month	Dollars Spent Per Month	Percentage spent each month	Percentage spent each month		
September	\$266,632.91	\$299,871.57	9.70%	10.90%	Total Budget	\$16,223,814.63
October	\$186,072.92	\$176,049.06	6.77%	6.40%	30% of budget	\$4,867,144.39
November	\$143,630.26	\$127,254.21	5.22%	4.63%	Earmarked set aside	\$6,241,201.00
December	\$192,654.08	\$207,245.41	7.01%	7.54%	Total budget spent to date	\$4,093,642.13
January	\$197,852.07		7.19%	0.00%		
February	\$221,903.94		8.07%	0.00%	NOTES	
March	\$187,887.87		6.83%	0.00%		
April	\$208,157.75		7.57%	0.00%		
May	\$199,048.99		7.24%	0.00%		
June	\$200,189.85		7.28%	0.00%		
July	\$158,470.03		5.76%	0.00%		
August	\$262,542.38		9.55%	0.00%		
Approved Total General Budget for Levy \$			\$2,750,201.46	\$2,750,201.46		
Total Spent to date			\$2,425,043.05	\$810,420.25		
Dollars approved from cash reserve				\$0.00		

Article III, Section 4, D Coffee Act Policy (Reimbursable Expenses)

1. Workshops. Board members, employees and volunteers of the ESU are expected to maintain effectiveness by being well informed on educational and related issues and are encouraged to diligently perform their required duties, attend educational workshops, conferences, training programs, official functions, hearings or meetings which are necessary to perform required duties, sponsored by the ESU or State and national educational organizations or which are otherwise in the best interests of the ESU.
2. Approval to Attend. Board members are hereby given prior approval by the ESU Board to attend such functions within the State which are sponsored by this ESU, the Nebraska Association of School Boards, the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association, and similar organizations, without additional or further approval by the Board unless otherwise so determined. Upon approval by the Board or, in the case of in-state functions, by the Administrator or the Administrator's designee, Board members are further authorized to attend other similar functions.

Employees and volunteers are authorized to attend such functions upon prior approval by the Administrator or the Administrator's designee.

1. Reimbursement of Expenses. The ESU will pay the registration costs, tuition costs, fees or charges for attendance by Board members at such approved functions. The ESU will pay mileage at the rate allowed by law (that is, the rate established by the Department of Administrative Services) or actual travel expenses if travel is authorized by commercial or charter means. The ESU will pay meals and lodging at a rate not exceeding the applicable federal rate unless a fully itemized claim is submitted substantiating the costs actually incurred in excess of such rate and such additional expenses are expressly approved by the Board.

For employees and volunteers, the ESU will pay costs and make reimbursements in the same manner as provided above for Board member attendance, unless otherwise established by policy, Board action, contract, or negotiated agreement.

1. Recognition. The Board hereby authorizes the President, Administrator or the Administrator's designee to determine when and to whom plaques, certificates of achievement, flowers or other items of value should be granted to recognize service by Board members, employees and volunteers. The maximum value of any such item to be awarded shall not exceed \$130.00. The Board may alter such maximum, but not more than once in any twelve-month period.

2. Meeting Refreshments. Non-alcoholic beverages may be provided to individuals attending public meetings. Meals may be provided to Board members, employees and volunteers attending joint meetings with other governing bodies. When the President or Administrator determines it to be in the best interests of the ESU and not in the form of a perquisite, because of timing or duration of a meeting or ESU activity, or other factors, the Board authorizes other nutritional refreshments to be provided to persons attending public meetings or in other appropriate or necessary situations.

3. Participants in Board Approved Activities. Non-alcoholic beverages and meals may be provided for individuals while performing or immediately after performing relief, assistance or support activities in emergency situations (including, but not limited to, tornado, severe storm, fire, or accident) and to volunteers during or immediately following their participation in any activity approved by the Board (including, but not limited to, mowing, picking up litter, removing graffiti, or snow removal).

4. Annual Recognition Dinner. One recognition dinner each fiscal year may be held for Board members, employees or volunteers. Such annual dinner may be held separately for Board members, employees of each department and volunteers, or in any combination. The maximum cost per person for such recognition dinner is hereby established at \$25.00.

5. Spouses. This policy does not authorize the expenditure of public funds to pay for any expenses incurred by a spouse of a Board member, employee, or volunteer unless the spouse is also a Board member, employee or volunteer or unless the expenditure is otherwise permitted by law.

6. General. Payment or reimbursement for expenses incurred by Board members, employees or volunteers may be allowed to the extent otherwise specifically permitted by law. The authority necessary to carry out the provisions of this policy should be and is hereby delegated from the Board to the designated officials indicated herein.

Legal Reference:	§§13-2201 to 13-2204 § 81-1176 (mileage rate)
Date of Adoption:	September 13, 2018
Date(s) of Review:	April 17, 2023

2024-2025 ESU 7 UNIT CALENDAR

<p>12-13 - All Staff Meetings 14-15 - Level III In-Service Days 16 - Student Start Date 19 - Board Meeting 23 - Agency Team Meeting</p> <p>Student Days - 11 Level III Staff Days - 15 Itinerant SpEd Staff Days - 15 Year Round Staff Days - 22</p>	<p>AUGUST 2024</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<p>FEBRUARY 2025</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>14 - All Staff Meeting (No School) 17 - Board Meeting 20-21 - Level III In-Service (No School) 28 - Agency Team Meeting</p> <p>Student Days - 17 Level III Staff Days - 20 Itinerant SpEd Staff Days - 20 Year Round Staff Days - 20</p>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28								
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Article I, Section 1, F Unit Calendar

It shall be the responsibility of the Administrator to develop the ESU calendar for recommendation, approval, and adoption by the Board annually. The Educational Service Unit 7 Board of Education by the May meeting, will adopt a Unit calendar for the following year.

The Board may amend the official ESU calendar when the Board considers the change to be in the best interest of the ESU's service plan.

Legal Reference:	§
Date of Revision:	May 18, 2020 February 20, 2023
Date(s) of Review:	January 17, 2022 January 16, 2023 January 22, 2024

From: Larianne Polk lpolk@esu7.org 🚩
Subject: Fwd: Thank you!
Date: January 5, 2024 at 1:32 PM
To: Mindy Reed mreed@esu7.org

LP

For the board.



Larianne Polk Ed.D.

Chief Administrator

Strategic · Responsibility · Relator · Achiever · Significance

Educational Service Unit 7

Address: 2657 44th Ave., Columbus, NE 68601

Phone: (402) 564-5753 Ext.1001

Mobile: (402) 720-4977

Website: www.esu7.org

Lead • Support • Customize • Innovate



Begin forwarded message:

From: Jake Brand <jbrand@lakeview.esu7.org>
Subject: Thank you!
Date: January 5, 2024 at 12:04:47 PM CST
To: lpolk@esu7.org

Dr. Polk,

Jake Brand here from Lakeview High School. Mr. Licari and myself wanted to say thank you for offering this opportunity for our students. We both thought his presentation was outstanding and all our students found it quite interesting. Absolutely loved his message; we will be stealing a few of his tag lines for sure!

Again, thank you!! We greatly enjoyed it.
Jake

--

Jake Brand

9-12 Special Education
HS Volleyball/HS Boys Basketball Assistant Coach
Lakeview Jr./Sr. High School
3744 83rd St
Columbus, NE 68601
School: (402) 564-8518

"To give anything less than your best, is to sacrifice the gift."
- Steve Prefontaine

LEGISLATIVE FORUM

2024 NRCSA LEGISLATIVE FORUM

The 2024 NRCSA Legislative Forum will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Forum please contact Jeff Bundy at (402) 202-6028 or via e-mail at jbundy@nrcca.net

REGISTRATION FORMS

Registration fees are \$100 for the first person, \$50 for each additional person for member schools, \$130 per person for non-member schools. \$5 of every registration supports NRCSA scholarships and awards funds. To register simply complete one of the forms below and return it to NRCSA. Your business office will receive an invoice for payment of any conference fees. Registrations may be altered or cancelled prior to **NRCSA making a meal count commitment**. Schools will be responsible for registration fees after that occurs.

[2024 NRCSA Legislative Forum Registration Form](#) (Online version)

[2024 NRCSA Legislative Forum Registration Form](#) (MS Word version)

Schools will be responsible for all registrations cancelled after February 16, 2024

SCHEDULE

****Schedule is tentative and subject to change****

8:20 AM - Welcome & Announcements

8:30 AM - Education Committee

9:00 AM - Appropriations Committee

9:30 AM - Rural senator or other group

10:00 AM - Rural Senator or other group

10:30 AM - Revenue Committee

11:00 AM - Rural Senator or other group

11:30 AM - Rural Senator or other group

12:00 PM - Lunch with Senators

1:10 PM - Speaker of the Legislature

1:30 PM - Closing & Adjourn

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

****The schedule is tentative and subject to change****

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

- 10:00 AM** Pre-Conference: *4 Essential Roles of Leadership*
presented by FranklinCovey—Silver 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12
- 2:00 PM—4:00 PM** Executive Committee Meeting—Bronze 5
- 4:00 PM—5:00 PM** WNA Meeting (Barry Schaeffer)—Bronze 5
- 6:30 PM—9:00 PM** Exhibitor Check-In & Setup—Gold 4,5,6,10,11,12
- 7:00 PM —9:00 PM** Attendee Registration—Registration 1
- 7:00 PM** Hospitality Rooms

Thursday, March 14, 2024

- 7:15 AM** Attendee Registration—Registration 1
Coffee and Rolls—Gold 4,5,6,10,11,12
- 8:30 AM** General Session—Silver 4,5,6,10,11,12

Presiding: Mark Lenihan, NRCSA President, Supt, Wayne Community Schools

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM ***Musical Welcome:***

9:05 AM – 9:25 AM ***Scholarships and Awards:***

NRCSA Scholarship & Gary Fisher Fine Arts Announcements

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM *Introduction and remarks by NREA Executive Director Allen Pratt*

9:50 AM – 10:20 AM ***Keynote Address:***

- 10:20 AM—11:00 AM** Exhibitor Time
- 11:00 AM—11:50 AM** Thursday Morning Select-a-Sessions

- 12:00 PM** Lunch General Session— Silver 4,5,6,10,11,12

Presiding: Dr. Dawn Lewis, NRCSA Past President, Supt, Arlington Public Schools

12:35 PM – 12:55 PM **Keynote Address:**

1:00 PM – 1:40 PM **Scholarships and Awards:**

Outstanding Elementary Teacher

Outstanding Secondary Teacher

Gary Fisher Outstanding Music Teacher

Outstanding ESU Staff Member

1:45 PM—2:20 PM Exhibitor Time

2:20 PM—3:10 PM Thursday Afternoon Select-a-Sessions

3:10 PM—3:35 PM Exhibitor Time

3:35 PM—4:25 PM Thursday Afternoon Select-a-Sessions

6:00 PM Chuckwagon Buffet— Silver 4,5,6,10,11,12

7:00 PM Hospitality Rooms

Friday, March 15, 2024

7:15 AM Attendee Registration—Registration 1

Coffee and Rolls—Registration 1

8:00 AM—8:50 AM Friday Select-a-Session I

9:00 AM—9:50 AM Friday Select-a-Session II

10:00 AM—10:45 AM Brunch Buffet—Silver 4,5,6,10,11,12

10:30: - 11:00 AM **Musical Welcome:**

10:50 AM Closing Session— Silver 4,5,6,10,11,12

Presiding: *Dr. Heather Nebesniak, NRCSA President-Elect, Supt, Ord Public Schools*

11:00 AM – 11:45 AM **Scholarships and Awards:**

Outstanding Classified Staff Member

Outstanding Board Member

Outstanding Principal

Outstanding Superintendent

11:50- AM – 12:45 PM **Keynote Address:**

12:50 PM Thank Yous, Prizes, & Drawings

TRACK 1 - AFTERNOON WORKSHOP

***LINCOLN - NORTH PLATTE - GERING**

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE

Superintendents/ESU Administrators, Business Managers,
and your Board's Finance Committee Members
Registration Fee: \$100 for members, \$200 for non-members

AMPLIFIED FINANCE MODULE AGENDA

11:30 AM - REGISTRATION
12:00 PM - LUNCH, FOLLOWED BY THE WORKSHOP
4:30 PM - ADJOURN

This afternoon workshop, led by school finance experts Carl Dietz and Matt Fisher, will be a more detailed, intense learning experience for those truly in the thick of school finance, compared to the traditional evening session.

Highlights:

1. Review all of the funds
2. Discuss the district audit report and how it relates to the AFR
3. Perform a detailed NDE budget for all funds
4. Prepare a line item budget for all receipts and expenses
5. Explain how to prepare a five-year projection of receipts, expenses, and cash balance
6. Payroll preparation
7. Building a capital replacement schedule
8. How to build a cost group spending comparability spreadsheet

TO REGISTER FOR ONE OR BOTH OF THE WORKSHOPS*

Go to www.NASBonline.org, and log in using your email and password

March 5 - Lincoln (Embassy Suites) ... Register by 2/29/24

March 19 - North Platte (Venue 304) ... Register by 3/14/24

*March 20 - Gering (Civic Center) ... Register by 3/14/24 (**Afternoon Only**)

\$20 Cancellation Fee - No refunds after registration deadlines
15 Awards of Achievement Points will be earned for attending

TRACK 2 - EVENING WORKSHOP

***LINCOLN & NORTH PLATTE ONLY**

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE

School Board Members,
Superintendents/ESU Administrators
Registration Fee: \$70 for members, \$170 for non-members

TRADITIONAL BUDGET & FINANCE AGENDA

5:00 PM - REGISTRATION
5:30 PM - DINNER, FOLLOWED BY THE WORKSHOP
8:30 PM - ADJOURN

Both new and veteran school board members must have a fundamental understanding of school finance. Superintendents, business managers, and bookkeepers are required to have a deep and comprehensive understanding of finance because taxpayers and citizens are asking districts to provide more detailed information about their finances. This evening workshop will feature Carl Dietz and Matt Fisher, two school finance experts, who will structure the presentation around all aspects of the school district finance such as:

1. Discussion of financial information that should be provided to board members and the community, including samples
2. The budgeting process is not a 'one and done' activity, rather it's something that needs to be discussed throughout the entire year
3. What to look for in your audit report and the Annual Financial Report
4. Importance of cash reserves
5. The importance of having a 5-year financial plan
6. How to properly build a capital replacement schedule
7. Understanding TEEOSA and Foundation Aid, LB 583 and LB 243
8. A brief discussion of LB 644 and the Joint Public Hearings





ESU 7 Goals 2023-2024

Board of Directors

- Goal 1: By July 2024, the ESU 7 board will create, roll out, and operationalize a formalized process for board recruitment, onboarding, mentoring, and boardsmanship.
 - Pre-Post engagement survey
 - Pre-Post process survey
- Goal 2: By July 2024, the ESU 7 board will attend at least two professional/personal learning events annually.
 - Pre-Post data
- Goal 3: By July 2024, 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.
 - Pre-Post data
- Goal 4: By July 2024, the ESU 7 board will create, roll out, and operationalize communication materials detailing tailored services and outcomes.
 - Pre-Post data

Administrator

- Goal: By 2024, use a process to allocate human, fiscal and physical resources in order to maintain (optimize) and develop (innovate) quality services
 - Actions:
 - Operationalize a data rich system to determine services to sunset, modify, and add.
 - Leadership to attend and establish the AESA Business Strategy Framework to learn of alternative funding options
 - Implement system to measure impact of services delivered
 - Work with the board to create long term plan for physical resource allocation
 - Strengthen long term plan for human capital allocation.

Directors

- Goal 1: By 2026, ESU 7 will use an established process to measure implementation and impact of targeted services.
- Goal 2: By 2024, use a process to allocate human, fiscal and physical resources in order to maintain (optimize) and develop (innovate) quality services.

Agency Team

- Goal: By January 2025, ESU 7 will host a professional development regional conference for stakeholder schools and internal ESU 7 staff.



Departments

- Administration:
 - Goal 1: By July 2024, ESU 7 Administrative processes will be highly functional.
 - Goal 2: By July 2024, the Administration Department will explore accounting software programs.
- Cen7ter: Each semester at Cen7ter will prioritize job sites that we can navigate to and from in a timely manner.
- Early Childhood: By May 2025, All ESU 7 PAC members will confidently implement changes needed to IEP/IFSP/MDT processes based on Part B CAPs and new information from NDE and school lawyers.
- Grants:
 - Goal 1: By May 2023, the Grants Department will collect needs assessment data that will be compared to find areas of similarities. Similarities will lead to collaborative opportunities.
 - Goal 2: By May 2024, the Grants Department members will enhance the skills needed to train adult learners.
- Learning Academy: Given data through evidenced-based assessments, we will individualize academic and behavioral interventions as evidenced by implementation of intervention groups by October 23, 2023.
- Mental Health: By May 2024, the Mental Health Department will improve our data collection system to analyze trends and drive service delivery.
- Migrant: Create a framework identifying steps to plan for student services, enrichment programs, and educating communities about MEP.
- Network Operations: During the 23-24 school year, the Technology Department will enhance technology support by establishing subcategories, streamlining feedback processes for projects and tickets, and strengthening training and documentation resources.
- Production:
 - Goal 1: By May 2023, develop and implement a process to manage workflow with limited staff.
 - Goal 2: By May 2024, the Production Department will create a training process for our customers, which will be deployed by Spring, to enable them to fill out order forms properly.
- Professional Development:
 - Goal 1: By May 2023, we will design and implement methods for supporting districts amidst the current educational landscape.
 - Goal 2: By May of 2024, the PD Department will effectively leverage internal expertise to enhance the efficiency of internal and external communication.



- Psychology: By May 2024, the School Psychology Department will assist ESU 7 districts in improving pre-referral processes and data collection.
- Speech: By May 2024, the SLP Department will create a service delivery framework to aid in determining an appropriate service delivery plan (e.g., appropriate IEP minutes, service delivery model, etc.) based on current research, severity, and verification.
- Vision: By May 2024, the Vision Department will create a landing page that will introduce vision staff, services provided, resources and links to support students with visual impairments.



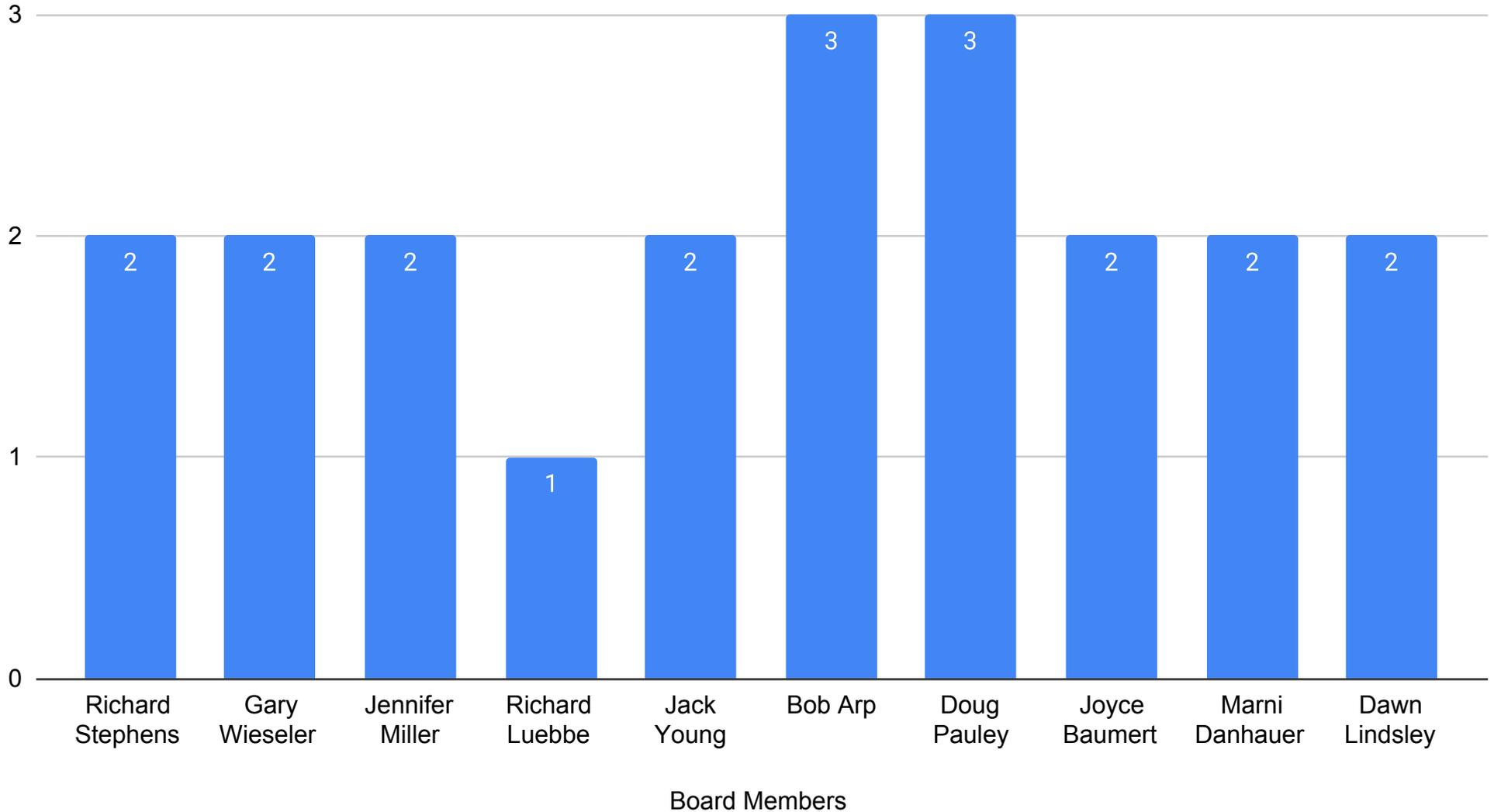
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ESU 7 Administrator Goals

- Goal 1: By year end 2024, use a process to allocate human, fiscal and physical resources in order to maintain (optimize) and develop (innovate) quality services.
 - This goal will be instrumental in communicating the first bullet under Goal 2.

- Goal 2: By year end 2025, Administrator will enhance the quality of communication furnished to the Board in the areas of,
 - Service plan development specifically related to allocation of human, fiscal, and physical resources,
 - Negotiations and the impact on the budget,
 - Cash reserve and long term planning, and
 - General budget as it relates to budget authority and operational budget.

Goal 2 - Professional Events 2023-2024



**108th Legislature
2nd Session
Update to the ESU 7 Board
1.22.2024**

Legislative Session Convene January 3, 2024
Bills introduced until 10th day, January 17, 2024
Hearings begin January 22, 2024
Adjourn sine die, April 18, 2024

Speaker of the Legislature: Senator John Arch, Papillion/LaVista (R), 2-year term	
Education Committee Members: Murman (Chair), Hastings (R) Albrecht, Wayne/S.Sioux (D) Meyer, St. Paul (R) Conrad, Lincoln (D) Linehan, Omaha (R) Sanders, Bellevue (D) Walz, Fremont (D) Wayne, Omaha (R)	Appropriations Committee: Clements (Chair) Armendariz Dorn Dover Erdman Lippincott McDonnell Vargas Wishart
Revenue Committee: Linehan (Chair) Albrecht Meyer Bostar Dungan Kauth Murman von Gillern	Retirement Committee: McDonnell (Chair) Clements Conrad Hardin Ibach Vargas

****Not sure yet where Senator Meyer will be assigned**

~Each senator may select only one priority bill, each committee may select two priority bills, and the speaker may select up to 25 priority bills. This session following the unprecedented filibustering, only priorities will get scheduled for debate. [Link to priority bills introduced.](#)

Rules Committee, Sen. Erdman

- Second session rules under consideration. Rule changes mid-session (between 1 and 2) is unprecedented.
 - First session the rules were: In order to have a full and fair debate on legislation, 8 hours of debate before a cloture motion for General File, 4 hours on Select File, and 2 hours on Final Reading. However, if no filibuster occurred in either the first or second rounds, the threshold for a full and fair debate could be 4 hours on Final Reading. (A cloture motion, if successful, would cease debate on a bill and require an immediate vote on the pending matter. The cloture motion currently requires an affirmative vote of 33 members.)

[Link to First Session \(2023\) Bill Tracker](#)

Link to Second Session (2024) Bill Tracker not yet available

Summary/Highlights:

- [LB 1417](#) (Brewer) - Create, eliminate, terminate, and provide, change, eliminate, and transfer powers, duties, and membership of boards, commissions, committees, councils, task forces, panels, authorities, and departments and change and eliminate funds
 - This 100 page bill creates the 16 member Commission for K-12 Education.
 - Includes the elimination of §79-1245 through 79-1249.
 - Terminates ESUCC July 1, 2025.
- [LB 1014](#) (Walz) - Change requirements relating to school psychologists
 - This just adds one line to the law; the addition of *service agencies*.
 - Allows for private school psychologist work to be reimbursed by NDE.
 - Hearing is on Monday, January 22nd.
- [LB 951](#) (Linehan) Adopt the Public Officials on Private Boards Open Meetings Act (OMA)
 - If there is a majority of public officials on a private board, they must follow OMA.
 - Public officials includes superintendents
- [LB 1302](#) (Lippincott) to adopt the Cybersecurity 1 Preparedness Act
 - Support cybersecurity preparedness activities;
 - Procure tools, hardware, software, or services that enhance or expand the state's cybersecurity defense and response capabilities
 - Strengthen and expand cyber risk management activities for the state
 - Expand vulnerability monitoring, identification, and management
- [LB1055](#) (Walz) Require development of a reading instruction system and programming for adults and children, create a steering committee, and provide for a literacy coordinator
 - Provides dollars to ESUs to hire reading coaches

2024 Legislative Session*

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
January						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7	DAY 8	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	HOLIDAY	DAY 9	DAY 10	DAY 11	DAY 12	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	DAY 13	DAY 14	DAY 15	DAY 16	DAY 17	
28	29	30	31			
	RECESS	DAY 18	DAY 19			

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
February						
				1	2	3
				DAY 20	DAY 21	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	DAY 22	DAY 23	DAY 24	DAY 25	RECESS	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	DAY 26	DAY 27	DAY 28	DAY 29	RECESS	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	HOLIDAY	DAY 30	DAY 31	DAY 32	DAY 33	
25	26	27	28	29		
	RECESS	DAY 34	DAY 35	DAY 36		

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
March						
					1	2
					RECESS	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	DAY 37	DAY 38	DAY 39	DAY 40	RECESS	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	RECESS	DAY 41	DAY 42	DAY 43	DAY 44	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	DAY 45	DAY 46	DAY 47	DAY 48	RECESS	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	DAY 49	DAY 50	DAY 51	DAY 52	RECESS	
31						

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
April						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RECESS	DAY 53	DAY 54	DAY 55	DAY 56	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	RECESS	DAY 57	DAY 58	DAY 59	RECESS	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	DAY 60		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Federal & State Holidays

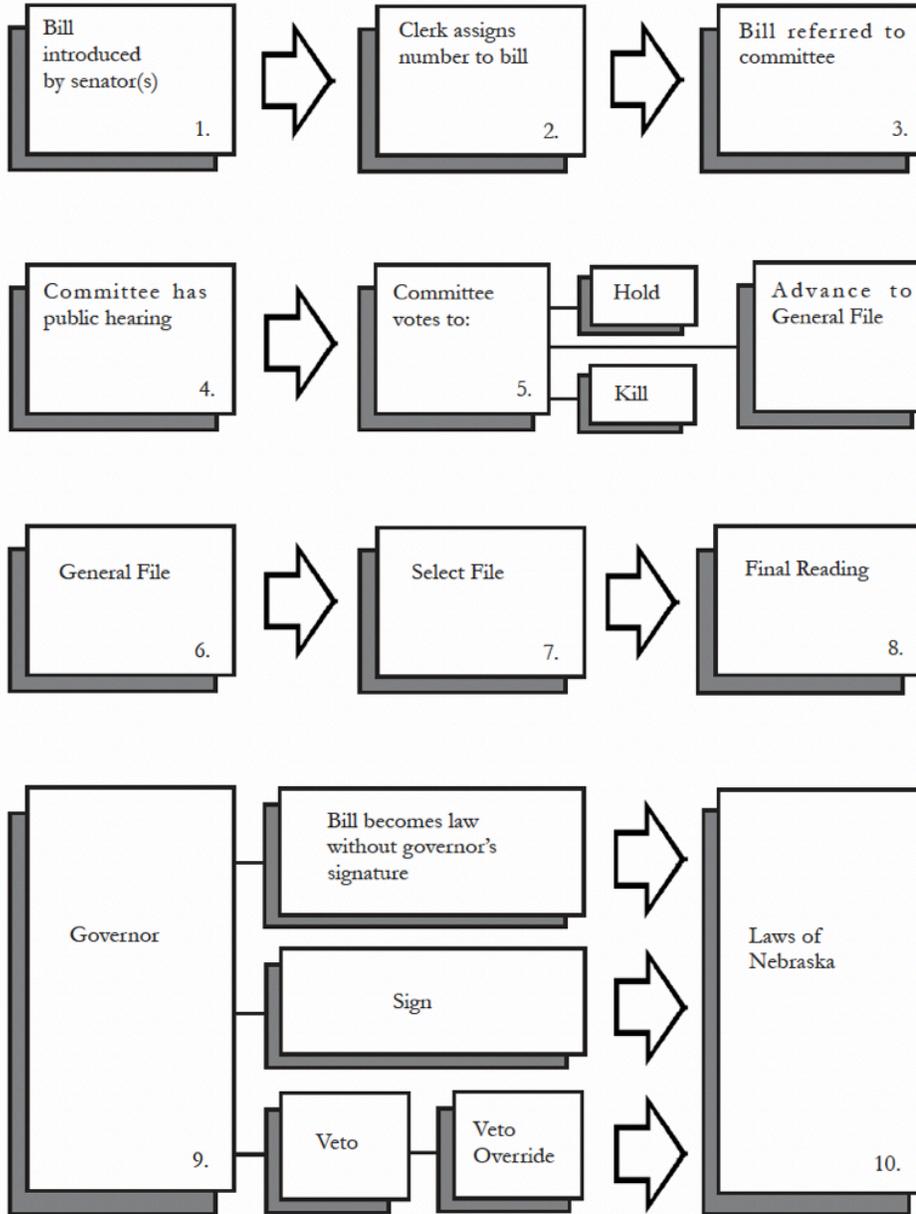
January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 19 – Presidents' Day

Legislative Recess Days

January 29
February 9, 16, 26
March 1, 8, 11, 22, 29
April 1, 8, 12, 15, 16, 17

*The Speaker reserves the right to revise the session calendar.

How a Bill Becomes a Law



(Unicameral Clerk of the Legislature, 2017, p. 281)

North Building
2657 44th Ave.
Columbus, NE 68601
O: 402.564.5753
F: 402.563.1121
@ESU7_NE
www.esu7.org



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South Building
2563 44th Ave.
Columbus, NE 68601
O: 402.564.0815
F: 402.563.1121
@ESU7_NE
www.esu7.org

Dr. Larianne Polk
Chief Administrator
E: lpolk@esu7.org

Dir. Marci Ostmeyer
Professional Development
E: mostmeyer@esu7.org

Dir. Tami Clay
Special Education
E: tclay@esu7.org

Dir. Dan Ellsworth
Network Operations
E: ellsworth@esu7.org

Funding for ESU 7 January 3, 2024

This memo is to provide a summary of how Educational Service Units (ESUs) are funded in Nebraska, and specifically how it relates to ESU 7 in Columbus.

As defined by Nebraska State Statute, the ESUs are funded in four ways.

- First, ESUs have authority to levy taxes. From 1965-1993, ESUs had authority to levy up to 3.5 cents. In 1993, an additional .5 cents available in order to meet the statewide needs for technology infrastructure in our schools. In 1996, the levy changed again for ESUs to 1.5 cents and remains at this level. This current levy, when applied to the taxable valuation for a \$100,000 home, will yield \$15.00 in revenue for the ESU. **ESU 7 levies 28% of our budget for services delivered to school districts.**
- Second, in 1998, after cutting levy authority by over 40% two years before, the Legislature passed a bill to appropriate dollars from the Nebraska State Budget to ESUs using a needs minus resources formula. These core service dollars were specifically designated to support ESUs in delivering staff development, instructional materials support, and technology and distance learning and did not make ESU funding whole. Although this funding was established for the delivery of core services, not all ESUs receive this funding. These state appropriated dollars have decreased or remained the same in 10 of the past 14 years, decreasing a total of 14.31%. The needs side of the formula is weighted to factor in the number of students enrolled in school districts in the ESU region. However, larger school districts have resources to support their students in ways smaller districts do not. The formula provides the largest amount of the core service dollars appropriated to the ESUs with largest student enrollment. It may be more appropriate to reverse the formula which would allow the ESUs with the smaller enrollment numbers to receive more of the core service dollars. **ESU 7 receives \$0 in state funded core services and has not since 2013-2014.**
- Third, if a contract is established ESUs can bill school districts or other educational entities for services. Over the last 10 years at ESU 7, that amount has continued to grow. This is burdensome to districts who have a cap on expenses imposed on them by the legislature in 2023. **ESU 7 contracts for 47% of our budget.**
- Fourth, ESUs manage state and federal grants. These grants are formula grants from the Nebraska Department of Education as well as more competitive state and federal grants. **ESU 7's grants make up 25% of the budget.**

The need to reduce property tax burden is a priority for Governor Pillen. ESUs levy less than 2% of the state's levy obligations. These dollars, although low in comparison to our educational partners, are critical to ESU 7 to maintain operation. The levy for ESU 7 not only provides revenue for operational overhead, but also for the core services required by state statute.

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Dr. Larianne Polk
Chief Administrator
E: lpolk@esu7.org

Dir. Marci Ostmeyer
Professional Development
E: mostmeyer@esu7.org

Dir. Tami Clay
Special Education
E: tclay@esu7.org

Dir. Dan Ellsworth
Network Operations
E: ellsworth@esu7.org

One of those core services is technology and technology infrastructure. ESU 7 was able to access the Technology Bond program in 2017-2018 to pay for technology hardware allowing our districts to have an off-site backup with security and secondary power. This program allowed for up to \$100,000 in bonding authority. We were able to ask for 1.556 cents in levy that year. That is an increase in only .056 cents, or \$0.56 for individuals owning a \$100,000 home. Those dollars were instrumental in getting secure backups for our school districts installed into a technology data center now in our building along with generator power fail safe. We bonded for and repaid the bond in the same year. In 2018, the Legislature removed ESUs from the program, making it impossible for us to participate in the program again. Now, cybersecurity and school technology safety is a priority. With no core service dollars and no technology bond program, it will be difficult to improve and stay secure in our technology support.

ESUs are designed for efficiency. We look to a variety of resources to provide services to districts. We prioritize the services we provide and use data to inform our service plan. The revenue we receive is reasonable and necessary to our purpose and our work.

Our mission is to provide leadership and support while delivering innovative and customized services. We do so while maximizing efficiency.

Should you have any questions or would like me to improve this message in any way, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larianne Polk".

Larianne Polk, Ed.D.
ESU 7 Chief Administrator
O: 402-564-5753
C: 402-720-4977

TABULATION OF BIDS

ESU -7 Administration Building HVAC Upgrade (Columbus, Nebraska)
 for: ESU-7, Columbus. Nebraska

RVW, Inc. -- Architects

Bidder	5% Bid Security	Addendum Received	Base Bid	Calendar Days to Substantial Completion.	REMARKS
Bierman Contracting Inc. 2560 E. 29 th Avenue, Columbus, NE.	X	N/A	\$1,394,000.00	180	NO HVAC during renovation work bid clarification letter.
Rutt's Ht'g and Air 48 th Ave, Columbus, NE.	X	N/A	\$1,210,410.00	180	

Note #1:

Bids opened and at 2:00 P.M., January 22, 2024 by: Michael Kennedy