

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT NO 16
314 WEST FIRST STREET
OGALLALA NE 69153-0915
(308) 284-8481
JAMES MCGOWN, ADMINISTRATOR

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**Ogallala Central Office
Regular Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 19, 2026
12:30 PM CT**

Legal Notice of the REGULAR BOARD MEETING was published in the Keith County News, North Platte Telegraph and on the Educational Service Unit 16 web page, www.esu16.org.

The meeting was opened at 12:30 p.m. CT by Robert Jones, President of the Board of Educational Service Unit 16. Roll Call was taken and those present were:

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|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Julie Boettcher (District 1): | Present |
| Bill Eakins (District 10): | Present |
| John Frates (District 11): | Absent |
| Eileen Ohm (District 12): | Present |
| Jason Axthelm (District 2): | Present |
| Bill McGahan (District 3): | Present |
| Robert Jones (District 4): | Present |
| Cheryl Bales (District 5): | Present |
| Grant Creager (District 6): | Present |
| Sherry Polk (District 7): | Present |
| Margaret "Sooky" Marks (District 8): | Absent |
| Judy Seger (District 9): | Present |
| John Frates (District 11): | Present |

- 1) This agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on May 12, 2026. A copy of the agenda reflecting any changes will be available for public inspection during normal business hours in the office of the Administrator of Educational Service Unit 16. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda will not be enlarged later than 24 hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting. The public meetings law (84-1410) allows boards to go into executive session "if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the protection of needless injury to the reputation of an individual." Individuals attending this meeting are invited to make comments during the "Recognition of Visitors" time allowed under agenda item 4. Time for each speaker should not exceed 5 minutes.
- 2) Call to Order
 - 2)a Pledge of Allegiance
 - 2)b Roll Call
 - 2)c Board Meeting Attendance

A motion was made by Bill McGahan (District 3) and Bill Eakins (District 10) to record, in the minutes, an excused absence for Sooky Marks. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 10, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1 Motion Carried.
 - 2)d Notification of Open Meetings Law Posting and Recognition of Recordings
 - 2)e Legal Notice of Regular Board Meeting

- 3) Consent Agenda:
 - 3)a Approval of Agenda (*Motion and second, Board President reads Conflict of Interest Statement*)
 - Approval of Minutes of the prior month Board Meeting
 - Approval of Excess Federal Rates Report
 - Approval of Claims and Financial Report
 - Authorize Payment of Claims per Article III, Section 5A

A motion was made by Cheryl Bales (District 5) and Grant Creager (District 6) to approve the Consent Agenda including: the Minutes of the April Board Meeting as written and sent to Board Members; the Excess of Federal Rates Report; Financial Reports for April, the claims for April, and the mid month claims. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 11, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
- 4) Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Eileen Ohm (District 12) and Grant Creager (District 6) to approve the April 2026 treasurer's report including the check register as presented by Amber Lutz. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 11, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
- 5) Recognition of Visitors
- 6) Action Items
 - 6)a Consider Approval of ESU 16 Education Association's Request to Negotiate

A motion was made by John Frates (District 11) and Eileen Ohm (District 12) to recognize the ESU 16 Teachers Association as the sole bargaining agent for the Service Unit for the 2026-2027 school year. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 11, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
 - 6)b Consider Contracts with Individuals/UNL for "Rooted in Relationships" Program

A motion was made by Bill McGahan (District 3) and Cheryl Bales (District 5) to approve Rooted in Relationships contracts for 2026-27 with contractors: Jennifer Pfeiffer, Jessica Vogt, Stephanie Bickford, and Anne Price. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 11, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
 - 6)c Memorandum of Understanding with ESU 15

A motion was made by Cheryl Bales (District 5) and Julie Boettcher (District 1) to approve the 2026-27 MOU with ESU 15 in the amount of \$32,450. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 11, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
 - 6)d Consider approval of MSA

A motion was made by Judy Seger (District 9) and Bill Eakins (District 10) to approve ESU 16 participation in the full slate of projects available in the 2026-27 Master Services Agreement. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 11, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
 - 6)e Consider Approval of the ESU 16 2026-27 Service Plan

A motion was made by John Frates (District 11) and Eileen Ohm (District 12) to approve the supplementary educational programs and services proposed in the attached 2026-2027 Service Plan. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 11, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
 - 6)f Consider approval of the 2026-27 Mid-Plains Community College Lease Agreement

A motion was made by Eileen Ohm (District 12) and Judy Seger (District 9) to approve the 2026-27 lease agreement with Mid-Plains Community College in the amount of \$17,685. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 11, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
 - 6)g Consider approval of yearly Annual Director Evaluations

A motion was made by Jason Axthelm (District 2) and Eileen Ohm (District 12) to approve changing the Director evaluations from every 3 years to annually starting in the 2026-27 school year. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 11, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
 - 6)h Consider Approval of Extra Duty Payments

A motion was made by Judy Seger (District 9) and Eileen Ohm (District 12) to approve the extra duty requests, as presented, for summer of 2026. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 11, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
 - 6)i Consider Amendment to Nicole Hoffmann's Contract

A motion was made by Cheryl Bales (District 5) and Eileen Ohm (District 12) to approve the contract amendment for Nicole Hoffmann from \$31,595.00 to \$34,467.80. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 11, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.

6)j Consider Amendment to Shelby Mauler's Contract

A motion was made by Grant Creager (District 6) and Bill Eakins (District 10) to approve the contract amendment for Shelby Mauler from \$65,202.00 to \$66,907.00. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 11, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.

7) Discussion Items

7)a Administrator's Proposed Initiatives for 2026-2027

7)b Discuss Ogallala Construction project

8) Director Reports

8)a Special Services: Jennifer Pohlson

8)b Teaching & Learning: Alison Smith

8)c Network Operations: Chad DeWester

9) Administrative Reports

9)a Board Reports

9)b Administrator's Report

9)c Out of Unit Travel and Mileage Reports

10) Adjourn

Michelle Walker

Recording Secretary

Signature of Board Officers

Board President

Board Secretary