

# NESCS Joint Governing and Administrative Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 12:30 p.m.  
NESCS Office, Devils Lake, ND

Board Members present: Sheri Olson, Devils Lake; Ned Clooten, Devils Lake; Jeff Olson, Four Winds; Dr. Kelly Peters, Lakota; Jeff Manley, Leeds; Rhandi Knutson, LRSE; Daren Christianson, Langdon Area; Dave Ambers, Minnewaukan; Jean Callahan, Minnewaukan; Robert Bubach, Munich; and Aimee Zachrison, North Star.

Board Members not present: Jay Slade, Dakota Prairie; Dr. Frank Schill, Edmore; Kent Dennis, Fessenden/Bowdon; Gil Black, Kensal & Midkota; Ben Allmaras, Maddock; Dr. Doug Darling, LRSC; Brad Nash, Mount Pleasant-Rolla; Dr. Jill Louters, New Rockford/Sheyenne; Donna Sorensen, NDSD; Jordan Brown, Oberon; Amber Krapp, Pingree/Buchanan; Michelle Clouse, St. Joseph; Sarah Beck-Connot, Starkweather; Jackie Thompson, Tate Topa; Mary Langley, Warwick; and Angela Brandt, Warwick.

Others present: Jennifer Carlson, NESCS Executive Director, and Erin Lacina, NESCS Director of Professional Learning and Operations.

## Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Daren Christianson, Governing Board President, at 12:30 p.m.

## Review of Agenda

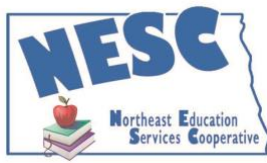
No changes were made to the agenda.

## Board Minutes Approval

A motion to approve the October 11, 2023, [minutes](#) on pages 3-8 of the board packet was made by Jean Callahan and seconded by Rhandi Knutson; motion carried.

## Financial Report

Jennifer Carlson reviewed the current [financial report](#) on page 9. Rhandi Knutson motioned to approve the financial report; Ned Clooten seconded; motion carried. The



[draft budget](#) for 2024-2025 was reviewed, it contains projected funding sources but does not include all revenue that is anticipated for next year, as we don't have final confirmation on some of the statewide projects. Staffing plans for next year include the same seven positions as this year, and funding for those positions is covered between various programs including 21<sup>st</sup> Century, NYCP, NDREA, TSI/CSI, NESCS general funds, and a personnel contract for instructional coaching with Warwick school. Jeff Olson made a motion to approve the staffing for 2024-2025 and Robert Bubach seconded the motion; motion carried.

## NESCS Operations

### NESCS Continuous Improvement

The NESCS's Cognia Accreditation Engagement Review was originally scheduled for this year, then was moved to next year. We have just been given notice that it's been moved to the 2025-2026 school year because Cognia dropped its standards for *Education Service Agencies* and is now working to create new standards. It is unknown if DPI will approve the new accreditation standards and Regional Education Association continuous improvement process from Cognia; therefore, we will wait to see what happens. The NESCS continues to work on our internal continuous improvement with review and updates of the Operational and Human Resource Policy Manual. Further, the NESCS [Strategy Map](#) has been updated with a focus on the delivery of high-quality programs and services, positive impact for learners and partners, and sustainability. The revised strategy map can be found on page 11 of the board packet.

## Grants/Professional Learning

### NDREA – DPI High Impact Tutor Training Grant

The NESCS and SEEC collaborate for this statewide project. On January 15, the NESCS facilitated the virtual Elevate Your Impact Workshop which was a statewide offering engaging more than 150 paraeducators. Pages 12-13 have an overview of the workshop objectives. This grant also provides the opportunity for schools to participate in [The Master Teacher](#) online platform that offers [150+ courses](#). The annual subscription is currently free to schools (act fast as grant funding is winding down). This grant is provided through December 2024.

## ESPB TSS/NESCS Beginning Teacher Grant & 2023-2024 Workshop Series



The NESC was awarded the ESPB Teacher Support Services Beginning Teacher Grant again this year. We have two cohorts of first, second-, and third-year teachers participating; see page 14 for a full listing of participants. The workshop series follows the format of instructional rounds and is a great way to expose new educators to the best practices of more experienced practitioners. Rounds consist of visiting classrooms (virtually) to observe teaching and learning, with the expectation of adapting and replicating observed strategies. After observations, teachers come together as a cohort to debrief their observations and to plan the implementation of strategies in their own classrooms. This format creates a great opportunity for beginning teachers to strengthen instructional practice through a network of support and shared learning. The cohort is led by a veteran educator (Katie Oster, NESC Professional Learning Specialist), who serves as the facilitator of rounds and guides debriefs, helps with action planning, and acts as an ongoing supporter throughout the workshop series.

#### DPI NDSS Grant

The NESC, SEEC and CREA hold a collaborative grant from DPI to support schools' implementation of the ND Content Standards. ND Standards-Based Learning frameworks, resources, and professional learning are available to schools during the 2023-2024 school year.

[NDSBL Website](#) (featuring ND Priority Standards and K-12 proficiency scales) is a resource that is available to districts with updated ELA and Math resources, as well as scales in multiple content areas.

A [NDSBL leadership series](#) is being offered once per month throughout the second half of this school year; more information is included on page 15 of the board packet.

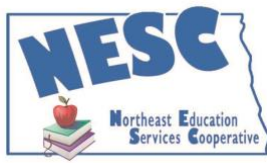
#### Science of Reading Training to support NDCC 15.1-21-12.1; 2023-24 Professional Learning

Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling K-12 (LETRS); Supporting Secondary Struggling Readers; Foundations of Reading: These series are being offered through the NESC and information has been provided through statewide and local emails to member districts.

[Evaluating Curricular Resources for ELA Adoption](#): Page 16 of the board packet has information on this opportunity for K-12 ELA teachers to review ELA curricula. Remaining sessions for 2024 include Fargo and Bismarck.

[Leading for Literacy Impact](#): This will be a Professional Learning opportunity for school leaders and leadership teams offered in the Spring of 2024; information is included on page 17 of the board packet. There is a cohort scheduled for Devils Lake.

#### Effective Math Instruction Professional Learning



The [NDREA Effective Math Instruction website](#) is now available to support math educators and school leaders.

[Features of Effective Math Instruction](#) is a workshop that will be coming to Devils Lake in March. Other sites/dates are also available to NESCS educators. A second-level workshop will be available Fall 2024.

#### Behavior Advantage Webinar Series

This four-part series will launch on February 28 and outlines MTSS Tier 1 and 2 supports and interventions. More information is available on page 19 and [here](#).

Bridges out of Poverty Workshop (Dr. Bethanie Tucker) – February 23, 2024  
NESCS schools are invited to attend a Poverty Workshop with Dr. Bethanie Tucker. Early Explorers Head Start is offering the workshop and would like to extend this opportunity to our member districts. More information is available on pages 20-21 of the board packet.

#### NESCS Professional Learning

##### NESCS Regional Fall Inservice 2024

A [separate handout](#) was distributed at the meeting with three options for keynote speakers including Ron Clark, Amy Blankson, and John O'Leary. We are finding that there are not many options for half-day or full-day speakers, and we need to consider a 90-minute keynote. After a review of the topics and presenters, a motion was made by Jean Callahan and seconded by Sheri Olson to pursue options from Ron Clark and the Move the Bus! keynote.

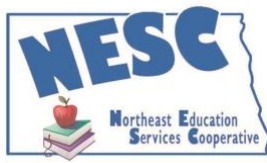
##### 2024-25 NESCS support for districts/schools

Schools are already booking late starts/early outs with NESCS staff for the 2024-25 school year. Contact Erin Lacina for your district's professional learning support.

##### On-Site Professional Learning Opportunities

The NESCS [Programs and Services Handout](#) is continually updated and outlines the offerings available from the NESCS for on-site PD. Pages 22-23 of the board packet include the most recent listing of programs and services.

Cognia Effective Learning Environments Observation Tool® (eleot®) school support  
The NESCS staff has been trained to conduct eleot® observations; teams from the NESCS have been out to two districts this winter, engaging in observations and feedback. This supports the continuous improvement and strategic planning for districts. Contact Erin Lacina for more information and to schedule a visit.



### ALICE Active Shooter Training

TrainND NE is offering ALICE Active Shooter training to NESC schools at a discounted price. August 20-23 are being held for schools to book fall training at NESC districts/schools. Pages 24-25 provide an overview of options for training. Contact Erin Lacina for more information and to book dates for next year.

### NESC Cafeteria Credit/UND VESi

Credit is available for NESC professional learning events through Valley City State University. UND also offers graduate credit opportunities through their VESi courses at a reduced rate to NESC educators. Information is on pages 37-38 and the NESC website: <https://www.nesc.k12.nd.us/graduate-credit/>.

### Vital Network

This program is fully funded by DPI to support climate and culture and teacher retention within schools and districts. Virtual information sessions are coming up on February 15 & 27; more information is included on pages 26-30 of the board packet.

### ClassLink

ClassLink is still available for schools. More information is available on page 31 of the board packet. North Dakota school districts have free access to software that allows students, teachers, and families to have simple, quick, and easy access to all their online classroom learning tools. ClassLink provides students a single access point for the school's education software applications, file storage options, and their homework and grades by using a single user identification and password on any device, from a school desktop computer to a student's smartphone app or tablet. There are also analytics available for schools to monitor the usage of various programs and applications.

## Student Activities

### 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Grant

ND DPI recently announced that the next round of applications for 21st CCLC will span five years, versus the three years in the past. NESC will apply for a new grant in the spring of 2025. Mt. Pleasant-Rolla is not operating this school year but is exploring opportunities for summer programs for 2024. Other programs are running well.

### Technology Learning Cooperative



TLC held three sessions for educators attending a regional in-service in Maddock on January 15 to focus on opportunities and modules available from the program. Over 30 elementary, middle, and high school teachers attended.

A [Padlet](#) for TLC is available as a resource for member schools, including embedded Padlets with information on all modules. There is also a “Help Desk” ticket that will be utilized for TLC teachers/schools to contact our office for support. The link is <https://tinyurl.com/tlchelpticket>.

### Scrubs Camp

The NESCS was awarded the 2023-2024 Scrubs Camp grant for fifth graders. Dates reserved for the camp are April 4 & 5, 2024. Information for registration has been sent out to all NESCS elementary schools.

### ITV

ITV currently has just a few schools utilizing the technology (Devils Lake, Edmore, Langdon, and Starkweather). Recently the original vendor sent out options for an extension of the service agreement for the equipment, and none of the schools are planning to participate. The NESCS has a few extra Polycoms, cameras, and microphones in case of issues, and if replacement is needed.

### ConnectEd

[ConnectEd](#) is live on Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. We have two partner grantors for this program, including the ND Afterschool Network and the ND Council on the Arts. Other partners this year include ND Gateway to Science, North Dakota visual artists, ND Game and Fish, and the ND Historical Society.

### You're Hired

You're Hired is a project that allows students to use STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) along with 21st-century skills to solve real, present-day problems. Students will work as a team (company) to find a solution and present their proposals to a boardroom. The NESCS facilitates You're Hired! events for students in grades 3-12. The NESCS will be offering full-day events within schools this Spring. Information will be shared soon.

### Other



NDREA

ND Education Hub: Educators can find PD and Training offered statewide for free on this site: <https://my.ndeducationalhub.org/login/index.php>

### 2023-2024 NESCS Calendar

Page 32 has the current [NESCS 2023-2024 calendar](#) with dates noted for meetings and other important events.

### 2024-2025 NESCS Calendar

Page 33 has the draft [NESCS 2024-2025 calendar](#) with dates noted for meetings and other important events.

### Next NESCS Board Meeting

The Joint Board Meeting will be held on April 10, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. at Lake Region State College.

### Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jean Callahan and seconded by Robert Bubach; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.