



NESC Joint Governing and Administrative Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 12:30 p.m.
Lake Region State College, Devils Lake, ND

Board Members present: Sheri Olson, Devils Lake; Ned Clooten, Devils Lake; Dr. Frank Schill, Edmore; Stacy Benz, Fessenden/Bowdon; Jeff Olson, Four Winds; Rhandi Knutson, LRSE; Daren Christianson, Langdon Area; Jeff Manley, Leeds; Kristi Halvorson, Midkota; Ben Allmaras, Maddock; Kent Dennis, Minnewaukan; Robert Bubach, Munich; Amber Krapp, Pingree/Buchanan; and Sarah Beck-Connot, Starkweather.

Board Members not present: Jay Slade, Dakota Prairie; Dr. Kelly Peters, Lakota; Gil Black, Kensal; Dr. Doug Darling, LRSC; Dave Ambers, Minnewaukan; Brad Nash, Mount Pleasant-Rolla; Natalie Becker, New Rockford/Sheyenne; Donna Sorensen, NDSD; Aimee Zachrison, North Star; Jordan Brown, Oberon; Michelle Clouse, St. Joseph; Jackie Thompson, Tate Topa; Mary Langley, Warwick; and Angela Brandt, Warwick.

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

Welcome & Call to Order

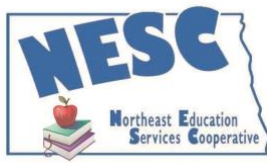
The meeting was called to order by Daren Christianson, Governing Board President, at 12:30 p.m.

Review of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

Board Minutes Approval

A motion to approve the June 6, 2024, minutes on pages 3-9 of the board packet was made by Kent Dennis and seconded by Rhandi Knutson; motion carried.



NESC Elections

Terms for the Governing Board Chair and Vice Chair expired and per the NESC bylaws, elections occur at this meeting. A motion was made by Kent Dennis to nominate Daren Christianson as Board Chair and to cast a unanimous ballot. Robert Bubach seconded; motion carried. A motion was made by Kent Dennis to nominate Rhandi Knutson as Vice Chair and to cast a unanimous ballot. Ben Allmaras seconded; motion carried. Daren Christianson will serve as Governing Board Chair and Rhandi Knutson will serve as Governing Board Vice Chair through 2026.

Financial Report

Jennifer Carlson reviewed the June 30, 2024, end-of-fiscal-year financial report on page 10 as well as the budget and year-to-date financials on page 10. The current financial report and estimated annual budget on page 11 include the 21st CCLC and NYCP full funding streams for better alignment with the annual state financial report. The only accounts not included are the Technology Learning Cooperative and Lake Region Teacher Center as they have a separate board for each group.

A revised copy of the fiscal agreement with DLPS is included on pages 12-14 with updated total costs, which have decreased because the NESC will need to provide a separate single audit for the 21st CCLC program going back to the 2022-2023 school year.

The NESC School Support Specialist, Jessica Edwards, has submitted a letter of resignation effective October 11, 2024. The NESC provides services in coordination with two grants that include responsibilities supported by Edwards (some days remaining this fiscal year), which will be supported through an Agreement for Services between the NESC and Edwards. Edwards' remaining duties were adjusted within the NESC, with some shifting to Erin Lacina and Jennifer. If needed, project support from out-of-office regional contacts/professionals will be sought out and the board will be kept apprised of any major needs. Unexpended salary for this position reverts back into the NESC general revenue.

A motion was made by Jeff Manley to approve the financial report and resignation, Ned Clouten seconded; motion carried.

NESC Operations



NESC 2023-2025 Annual Impact Report

REAs collect and analyze program and service data annually as part of the REA and NDREA continuous improvement processes. The NESC Annual Impact Report is included on pages 15-21 of the board packet.

NDREA Continuous Improvement Review Process Update

In the past, REAs have utilized Cognia (formerly AdvancED) as a framework for continuous improvement and provider for accreditation. The NESC was accredited upon an AdvancED external engagement review seven years ago. Since that time, Cognia discontinued use of the performance standards for Education Service Agencies, then recently re-introduced new standards. Working with DPI, the NDREA is proposing to develop a new review and accreditation process for REAs in ND that will utilize highly-relevant processes already in place for continuous improvement.

Vital Network

Information from Vital Network is included on page 22 of the board packet. Schools are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to utilize Vital Network through funding available from DPI. REAs are also able to utilize the funds for internal work, and the NESC will plan to integrate Vital Network into our organization throughout 2024-25.

Grants and Contracts/Professional Learning

NDREA – DPI High Impact Tutor Training Grant

The NESC and SEEC collaborate for this statewide project. 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 through December 2024. Through this grant, paraprofessional classes will also soon be offered through the ND Educational Hub.

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 resources and professional learning are available to schools during the 2024-2025 school year.

[NDSBL Website](#) (featuring ND Priority Standards and K-12 proficiency scales) is a resource available to districts with updated ELA and Math resources and scales in multiple content areas. Pages 26-27 is a screenshot of the homepage for the website.



Part 1 of the [NDSBL school leadership series](#) was offered during the 2023-24 school year and has been archived on this site. Part 2 is now being offered and more information is included on page 23 of the board packet. This work is highly recommended within schools for alignment of curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices (schools' Tier 1 supports for all learners).

There are multiple standards courses that will be available in the next weeks on the ND Educational Hub with focus on basics and best practices in ELA and Math Standards, along with leveraging the ELA and Math Standards.

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) Volume 2 is being offered currently through the NESC.

Foundations of Reading: Devils Lake will host this workshop series on Nov 1, Nov 21, and Dec.5, with other sites also hosting on the same dates. This is designed for K-12 classroom teachers, principals, and Title teachers. Pages 24-25 have more information.

Supporting Secondary Struggling Readers: Devils Lake will host this workshop series on Nov. 22 and Dec. 6. This is for middle and high school teachers and principals. Page 26 has more information.

Leading for Literacy Impact: This is for principals, instructional coaches and data coordinators. The kick-off for this is on February 10 and page 27 has more information.

NESC Literacy Lite is a weekly resource that is delivered via email to educators featuring activities to help build phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills.

ND Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant 2024 was just announced by DPI. The federal grant aims to improve the literacy skills of disadvantaged children from Birth through Grade 12. The Comprehensive Literacy Improvement through Measured Building Systems (ND CLIMBS) project proposes establishing and sustaining collaborative conditions within school buildings for delivering high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction to systems serving high numbers and percentages of disadvantaged children. Page 27 has more information.



Effective Math Instruction Professional Learning

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

[Driving Math Success Through Intentional Unit Planning](#) - Information is on pages 29-30 for the current workshop series. Below is the listing of topics and dates.

- (i) Designing Effective Tier 2 Interventions - Nov. 12
- (ii) Homework & Grading Practices - Nov. 13
- (iii) Data-Driven Instruction: Analyzing Student Work - Nov. 14

[Features of Effective Math Instruction](#) is being offered in Devils Lake on October 28 & 29 in Devils Lake as well as other locations statewide. This workshop investigates the key features that lead to effective instruction and increased achievement in math. Page 31 has more information.

[Features of Effective Math Instruction - Retention](#) is a workshop that investigates the concept of learner retention and the importance of retrieval strategies to use in the classroom to increase math achievement. Devils Lake will host this workshop on December 2 and 3, there will also be other locations available statewide. Page 32 has more information.

[Beginning Teacher Network workshop series](#) The NESCS was awarded this grant again through ESPB and the ND RISE program. Our series is specifically designed for teachers in their first, second, or third years of the profession who want to improve student learning. Participants will routinely meet and observe high-quality, high-impact practice through instructional rounds. Pages 34-35 has more information.

Other Professional Learning

2024-25 NESCS Support for Districts/Schools

The NESCS has aligned strategy maps from our member schools to professional development resources available. The [NESCS website](#) has been updated to reflect the aligned supports available from the NESCS and statewide partners.

ALICE Active Shooter Training

TrainND NE is offering [ALICE Active Shooter](#) training to NESCS schools at a discounted price; information is on pages 35-36. Contact Erin Lacina for more information and to reserve a date.



NESC 2024 Regional Fall In-service

NESC Regional Fall In-service with Ron Clark was held at the Devils Lake High School Sports Center on August 15, 2024. Nearly 800 educators attended the keynote presentation. The event also included multiple breakouts throughout the day for schools and educators who chose to stay. Schools had the opportunity to have selected staff attend a breakout session with Clark after the keynote, supporting future leadership of professional learning at their schools throughout the school year. NESC personnel are also facilitating a year-long book study for district representatives, connecting the keynote and breakout content with local action planning.

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 the NESC website:

<https://www.nesc.k12.nd.us/graduate-credit/>.

Student Activities

21st CCLC Grant

DPI notified us that the 21st CCLC grant requires a single audit for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 fiscal years. This wasn't conducted within the Devils Lake Public School's audit process, which includes NESC financials. Jennifer is reaching out to accounting firms with not much success; additional firms were suggested, and Jennifer will follow up with those options.

This year the 21st CCLC grant will undergo monitoring from DPI. This will require significant time and collaboration with involved sites.

The new 21st CCLC grant application RFP will be released later this fall, the NESC will apply for the five-year grant on behalf of eligible sites in our region.

Technology Learning Cooperative

A [Padlet](#) for TLC is available as a resource for member schools, including embedded Padlets with information on all modules. All equipment came to Devils Lake over the summer for inventory, updates, and reset of the rotation for the upcoming school year. The TLC Management Team will meet immediately following the NESC meeting.

ITV

No schools are offering ITV classes from the NESC this year.



Other

NDREA

REA Accountability (mentioned above with NDREA Continuous Improvement Review Process Update).

Several changes took place within REAs statewide. The Fargo area (SEEC) has a new director; John Porter serves as SEEC Director as well as director for a special ed unit. NCEC (Bottineau/Rugby) had Tonya Hunskor take over as director. The RESP (Dickinson) and WERC (Willison) REAs will be merging into one REA with Riley Mattson and Ben Schaefer sharing director duties.

ND Educational Hub: Educators can find multiple PD offerings on this site: <https://my.ndeducationalhub.org/login/index.php>. The Hub moved to the Canvas platform in August.

2024-2025 NESCS Calendar

Page 40 has the [NESCS 2024-2025 calendar](#) with dates noted for meetings and other important events.

Next NESCS Board Meeting

The Lead Administrators will meet on November 13, if needed. The next Joint Board Meeting will be held on February 12, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. at Lake Region State College.

Discussion was held on options for ASVAB testing. Schools are having trouble because of limited availability to offer the test. If students are gone, they can't get them back in for the test. Options were offered including opening test sites for multiple schools and having younger students take the test over multiple years.

Adjourn

Rhandi Knutson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sara Beck-Connot seconded, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.