



NESC Joint Governing and Administrative Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 12:30 p.m.
Lake Region State College, Devils Lake, ND

Board Members present: Dr. Frank Schill, Edmore; Jeff Olson, Four Winds; Rhandi Knutson, LRSE; Dr. Doug Darling, LRSC; Daren Christianson, Langdon Area; Ben Allmaras, Maddock; Kent Dennis, Minnewaukan; Robert Bubach, Munich; Jordan Brown, Oberon; and Sarah Beck-Connot, Starkweather.

Board Members not present: Jay Slade, Dakota Prairie; Ned Clooten, Devils Lake; Sheri Olson, Devils Lake; Stacy Benz, Fessenden/Bowdon; Dr. Kelly Peters, Lakota; Gil Black, Kensal; Jeff Manley, Leeds; Kristi Halvorson, Midkota; Dave Ambers, Minnewaukan; Brad Nash, Mount Pleasant-Rolla; Natalie Becker, New Rockford/Sheyenne; Donna Sorensen, NDSO; Aimee Zachrisson, North Star; Amber Krapp, Pingree/Buchanan; 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 12:32 p.m.

Review of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

Board Minutes Approval

A motion to approve the February 12, 2025, [minutes](#) on pages 3-8 of the board packet was made by Robert Bubach, and seconded by David Ambers; motion carried.



Financial Report

Jennifer Carlson reviewed the April 9, 2025, [financial report](#) on page 9 and the 2025-2026 [draft budget](#) on page 10. The draft budget includes expenses for current staffing and other obligations for next year, as well as revenue that is estimated at this time. We anticipate knowing more regarding revenue at the next meeting and will bring back information as it is available.

A motion was made by Kent Dennis to approve the financial report and draft budget, Rhandi Knutson seconded; motion carried.

DPI ESSER Late Liquidation Funds

We were notified on March 28, 2025, that we needed to submit Quarter 3 invoicing of expenses immediately to DPI for projects aligned with ESSER/late liquidation funding. A [memo](#) regarding the situation is included on page 11, and the list of projects is on page 12. Of the listing, NESC is lead on the Training for High-Impact Tutoring. Of the \$9230.00 outstanding for this project, \$1050 was paid out for subscriptions to “The Master Teacher,” for which we put in a claim. The remaining funds are tied to outstanding work related to the project that hasn’t yet been completed. The worst case scenario is the NESC is held to the \$1050 billing if DPI is not able to recoup the funds from USDoE. There are additional projects that the NESC are involved with, but other REAs hold the contracts. They include Science of Math, Science of Reading, and Priority Standards. DPI is hoping USDoE will consider the continuation of funding, but if not, DPI will ask the ND Legislature to support the work.

NESC Operations

NESC Audit

The NESC was notified that a single audit is required specifically for the 21st CCLC program because the grant revenue is over the funding threshold. Our fiscal agreement with DLPS included audit services within the district audit, but this funding falls outside the scope of that work. After contacting multiple sources, including the state auditor and CPA firms across the state, two firms expressed interest in the audit completion. The first quote from [Brady Martz](#) is on pages 13-14. It includes a full audit of the NESC and a single audit of the 21st CCLC program with an estimated cost for 2022-2023 of \$23,100; the cost for 2023-2024 is \$18,900.

We also received a quote from [Nadine Julson](#) in Wahpeton on pages 15-16, and their quote was \$25,000 for the years ending 2023 and 2024.

Jennifer has contacted DPI to see if we are required to have the full audit or if we can just do the single audit of the 21CCLC program.



A motion was made by Kent Dennis to refer the decision to the NESC Executive Committee once more information is available, giving the committee decision authority based on the findings, Ben Allmaras seconded the motion; motion carried.

NESC Staff Agreements 2025-2026

All staff have signed their work agreements for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Cognia Update for NESC

The NESC was notified that we can delay the Accreditation Engagement Review with an expiration date of June 30, 2027. DPI still has not determined what is required for REAs' "continuous cycle of improvement," and until that is finalized, REAs are holding off on utilizing the Cognia process.

15.1-09.1-02.2. Regional education association - Review process. In order to be eligible for state funding, a regional education association shall participate in and meet the requirements of a review process that is: 1. Designed to raise the quality of services offered by a regional education association to its members, in accordance with this chapter, through a ***continuous cycle of improvement***; and 2. Approved by the superintendent of public instruction.

Lake Region Teacher Center Funding

As part of the NESC strategic planning and continuous improvement, we have concluded that the LRTC may have run its course. Most of the meetings are a duplication of NESC board meeting information and upcoming events featured in our newsletters. We would like to disband the formal Teacher Center organization, but would like the ability to implement teacher focus groups instead to inform NESC programs and services. There is one fiscal tie to the group, which includes proceeds from graduate credit offerings from VCSU - used to fund the Teacher Visitation Grant. This funding stream can stay as-is and go under the NESC finances for future years. Jennifer and Erin met with the LRTC Executive Board, and they are in support of this change. We will bring it to the next LRTC board meeting on April 23.

Grants and Contracts/Professional Learning

ND Science of Reading / NDCC 15.1-21-12.1

Registration is open for the [ND Literacy Summit - July 30-31, 2025](#).

Effective Math Instruction

[ND SB2213 \(Math\)](#)



Effective Math Instruction Professional Learning

[Features of Effective Math Instruction - Retention](#) (Grades K-12) - April 10 / Devils Lake

NYCP Grants - 2022 award and 2025 application

A motion was made by Robert Bubach to approve NESCS applying for the 2025-2030 NYCP Grant, Doug Darling seconded the motion; motion carried.

Other Professional Learning

[NESCS support for districts/schools](#) - Review available programs and services against district/school needs. Information will be updated soon to include 2025-26 dates.

2025-26

[NESCS Regional Fall In-service](#) - August 15, 2025 / 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Jimmy Casas); details are included on pages 18-20.

Leaders' Virtual Book Study with Jimmy Casas (+ February 11, 2026, in-person workshop).

Educators' Virtual Book Study with Jimmy Casas and Shannon Myers. The board determined that session times will be 3-4 p.m. for each session.

Registration for all offerings will open soon.

ALICE Active Shooter Training

TrainND NE is offering [ALICE Active Shooter](#) training to NESCS schools at a discounted price; information is on pages 45-46. Contact Erin Lacina for more information and to reserve a date.

NESCS Cafeteria Credit

Credit is available for NESCS professional learning events through Valley City State University. Information is on the NESCS website: <https://www.nesc.k12.nd.us/graduate-credit/>.

Student Activities

21st CCLC Grant

On February 26-27, the 21st CCLC grant hosted a monitoring visit from DPI, which included a review of numerous documents provided from sites as well as visits to Minnewaukan and Devils Lake sites. The formal report has not yet been provided.



The new 21st CCLC grant application RFP has still not been released; the NESC will apply for the five-year grant on behalf of eligible sites in our region. During the monitoring visit, there was a suggestion that we may be only able to apply for a certain funding level, which means we may need to write more than one grant application. Other considerations that are being considered is that we have Devils Lake Public Schools be the authorized representative for the grant(s) and then the audit requirements will fall under their fiscal responsibility and our fiscal agreement with the district. A motion was made by Ben Allmaras to support the application for the 2025-2030 ND 21st Century grant and, if needed, appoint DLPS/Ned Clooten as the authorized representative. Jeff Olson seconded the motion; motion carried.

Technology Learning Cooperative

We are planning to offer PD for TLC teachers on May 28 and 29 in Devils Lake. Details are being finalized soon. An online course for TLC teachers is being finalized that can be used for teacher and/or students for the basics of Corel Draw and use with the various equipment including Laser Engravers, Dye Sublimation printers, and Large Format Printers (banner printers). Two schools have dropped out of TLC: Northwood and Rolette.

A [Padlet](#) for TLC is available as a resource for member schools, including embedded Padlets with information on all modules.

Other

Legislation Discussion

[ND SB2353](#): This bill modifies two sections of North Dakota law related to regional education associations and state purchasing services. In the first section, the bill clarifies the requirements for regional education associations to receive state funding, simplifying language about the services they must provide to member districts. These services include coordinating professional development, providing technology support, helping districts achieve school improvement goals, analyzing student achievement data, and expanding curricular offerings. The bill also explicitly allows regional education associations to offer additional services, including services to non-member districts, and permits them to contract with the superintendent of public instruction. In the second section, the bill updates the state's purchasing services regulations, primarily by reorganizing existing language into a more structured format with numbered subsections. The bill adds a specific provision allowing the Department of Public Instruction to contract with regional education associations and maintain the existing list of exceptions to standard state procurement requirements. These changes aim to



provide more clarity and flexibility for regional education associations and state purchasing procedures. *Signed by the Governor 3/27/2025*

[2024-2025 NESCS Calendar](#)

[2025-2026 NESCS Calendar](#)

Please submit your district's 2025-2026 calendar to erin.lacina@nescnd.org.

Next NESCS Board Meeting

There is a hold on the calendar for a Lead Administrator Meeting on May 14, 2025, but at this time a meeting is not necessary for the group.

The next Joint Board Meeting will be held on June 4, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. at Lake Region State College. TLC Management Team will meet immediately after the NESCS meeting that same day.

Adjourn

Robert Bubach made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Rhandi Knutson seconded, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.