

NESC Joint Governing and Administrative Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 12:30 p.m.
Lake Region State College, Devils Lake, ND

Board Members present: Jay Slade, Dakota Prairie (online); Ned Clooten, Devils Lake; Sheri Olson, Devils Lake; Darren Sheggerud, Fessenden/Bowdon (online); Jeff Olson, Four Winds; Rhandi Knutson, LRSE; Dr. Kelly Peters, Lakota (online); Dr. Carmen Simone, LRSC; Daren Christianson, Langdon Area; Jeff Manley, Leeds (online); Ben Allmaras, Maddock; Kristi Halvorson, Midkota; Kent Dennis, Minnewaukan; Robert Bubach, Munich; Natalie Becker, New Rockford/Sheyenne; Jeff Hagler, North Star; Sarah Beck-Connot, Starkweather; and Penny Morin, Tate Topa.

Board Members not present: Gil Black, Kensal; Dave Ambers, Minnewaukan; Brad Nash, Mount Pleasant-Rolla; Donna Sorensen, NDSD; Jordan Brown, Oberon; Chris Triggs, Pingree/Buchanan; Catherine Anderson, Rolette; Michelle Clouse, St. Joseph; 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

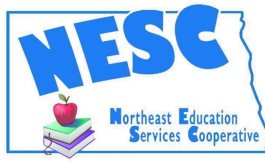
The meeting was called to order by Daren Christianson, Governing Board President, at 12:30 p.m.

Review of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

Board Minutes Approval

A motion to approve the April 9, 2025, minutes on pages 3-8 of the board packet was made by Ned Clooten, and seconded by Robert Bubach; motion carried.



Guest

The National Weather Service, Grand Forks, provided an [informational session](#) from meteorologist Thomas Grafenhauer.

Other Professional Learning

[NESCS support for districts/schools](#) - NESCS programs & services aligned with school strategy maps

2025-26

The NESCS Regional Fall In-service held on August 15, 2025, was [recapped](#) on pages 12-15 of the meeting packet. All [participant feedback](#) is available from the attached link.

NESCS 2025-26 Book Studies: The NESCS has continued to support learning with Jimmy Casas throughout the 2025-2026 school year with two book study options for leaders and educators.

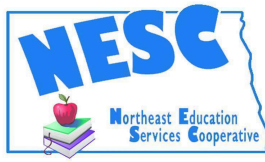
Recalibrate - Leadership Book Study has 28 participants. Jimmy Casas will also be in Devils Lake on February 11, 2026 for a special leadership session with administrators.

Words on the Wall - Educator Book Study has 16 participants.

[NESCS Regional Fall In-service \(August 13 and/or 14, 2026\)](#): Three keynote options were presented on pages 16-20 of the board packet. Discussion was held, and a motion was made by Kent Dennis to hire Todd Whitaker for Friday, August 14, 2026, for a morning session for all regional educators to be held at the Devils Lake High School Sports Center, as well as a leadership session to be held that same afternoon for administrators. Follow-up support would be provided for leaders and educators throughout the year. Robert Bubach seconded the motion; motion carried.

NESCS Regional Fall In-service (August 12 and/or 13, 2027): A discussion was held regarding securing a presenter for the 2027 Fall In-service, and a motion was made by Robert Bubach and seconded by Kent Dennis to hire Joe Sanfelippo for the August 13, 2027 NESCS Fall In-service with annual follow-up support. Motion carried.

[ND A+ Weekly Office Hours](#) These weekly connections are recurring, role-responsive live virtual sessions designed to provide just-in-time support, answer questions, and deepen understanding of the ND A+ Assessment System. Educators, coaches, and administrators are welcome to join live to explore implementation strategies, troubleshoot challenges, or gain clarity on the use of Interim, Formative (Navy), and Summative assessments. Each month offers a supporting theme, with specific weekly learning objectives. Every week includes an opportunity for both focused learning and open Q&A. WHEN: Every Thursday, Weekly | 3:00-4:00PM Central Time. WHAT IS COVERED: Each session flexibly responds to participant needs and may include topics such as test management, interpreting data, instructional planning, technology setup, accommodations, and connecting assessment results to decision-making. WHO SHOULD ATTEND: This connection is designated for any direct or indirect student support staff.



[Beginning Teacher Workshops](#) The NESCS was awarded the ND RISE grant from ESPB to support beginning teachers. We will host two cohorts of workshops starting in January. Information is linked and on pages 21-23 of the board packet.

[Teachers from Overseas PLC](#) The NESCS is hosting two professional learning communities for teachers from overseas, with facilitation from NCEC. There are 17 registered from 8 NESCS districts. Information is included on pages 24-25.

[NDMTSS 2025-26 Trainings](#): NDMTSS is a framework to provide all students and educators with the best opportunities to succeed; it's a continuous improvement process; it addresses the whole child (academic, behavior, social-emotional); is dedicated to eliminating barriers and increasing equity for all students; is focused on providing high-quality instruction and interventions matched to student need; is an ongoing progress monitoring to make decisions about changes in instruction or goals; and committed to using evidence-based resources. Multiple opportunities are available to implement or continue/resume the implementation of MTSS.

[Paraprofessional Training Project for SpEd Paraprofessionals](#) is available on the ND Educational Hub. There are multiple free courses available that include a stipend for successful participants. Information is on page 28 of the board packet and linked here: [Welcome to the Paraprofessional Training Project](#). This is the link for the [Paraprofessional Course Reimbursement Application Form Instructions](#).

[Alice Active Shooter Training](#) is available to NESCS Schools. Please contact Erin.Lacina@nescnd.org for contracting.

Infinite Campus: a discussion was held on implementation plans and what role the NESCS/REAs can help to play for schools. At this time, there are many unknowns, but as information is released, we'll continue to share it with the group. This will continue to be an ongoing agenda item moving forward.

NESCS [Cafeteria Credit](#) is available from VCSU for districts to utilize for graduate credit opportunities for staff. Contact [Erin Lacina](#) with any questions.

NESCS Operations

Grants and Contracts/Professional Learning

NYCP Grant 2022-2027 includes a partnership with Minnewaukan High School, the University of Jamestown, the Spirit Lake Nation, Devils Lake Public Schools, and the NESCS. This project just wrapped up year three of operations with the goal of increasing students' college and career awareness and readiness along with interest in the teaching pathway.

[NYCP Grant 2025-2030](#) was recently awarded with partnerships between Warwick Public School, the Spirit Lake Nation, Devils Lake Public Schools, and the NESCS. Pages 29-20 include a press release from the Department of Education as well as the executive summary from the grant application. The grant supports academic success for students in grades PreK-3 through student, educator, and family supports.



Potential grant proposal to Bush Foundation (UND/NESC/FWCS): The NESC has been offered the opportunity to participate in a grant application being submitted by UND to the Bush Foundation to support out of school and school-day programming at Four Winds Community School (Grades K-12). A motion was made to support the NESC's participation in the proposal and project by Ned Clooten and seconded by Ben Allmras; motion carried.

ND Science of Reading / NDCC 15.1-21-12.1. Multiple workshops/series supporting SoR are happening within the NESC and state this year, including: 1) LETRS Volume 1 workshop series; 2) [Foundations of Reading Instruction & Implementation](#) (page 31); 3) Explicit Instruction workshop series; and 4) Evaluating ELA Curricular Resources: Standards Alignment.

[EL Services](#) Daren Christianson included this topic on the agenda to start a discussion on needs from NESC schools for EL services. Guidance from DPI is included in the link and on pages 32-33 of the board packet. It was suggested that we bring in Kerri Whipple from SEEC to answer questions related to EL at our next meeting. Whipple oversees a regional Title III consortium that many of our districts participate in.

[Financial Reports](#) are included on pages 34-35 with an updated version of the 2025-2026 budget, with known revenue and expenses at this time. Robert Bubach made a motion to approve the financial report, Rhandi Knutson seconded the motion; motion carried.

Review of [Bylaws](#) (pages 36-39) and [Joint Powers Agreement](#) (pages 40-42) was completed by the board; no modifications were recommended at this time. Natalie Becker made a motion to approve the review of the bylaws and Joint Powers Agreement, and Sara Beck-Connot seconded the motion; motion carried.

Election of Lead Administrator/Vice Chair of the Administrative Board

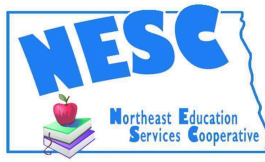
The terms of Jay Slade and Ben Allmaras having concluded, nominations were opened for new officers. Chair: Natalie Becker moved to elect Ben Allmaras as Chair. The motion was seconded by Ned Clooten. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed. The motion carried unanimously. Vice-Chair: Sheri Olson moved to elect Kent Dennis as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Ned Clooten. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed. The motion carried unanimously.

[NESC Annual Impact Report 2024-2025](#) is included on pages 43-51 of the board packet. Each REA has a report completed for its organization including common data points. An NDREA Annual Impact Report has also been completed and reviewed by the REAs.

A [NDREA Continuous Improvement](#) process has recently been submitted for review and approval to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Page 52-55 is the letter submitted to DPI this fall outlining the process. The NESC is tentatively scheduled to host a review during the 2026-2027 school year.

NESC Continuous Improvement with Vital Network: Through a DPI grant opportunity, the NESC partnered with Vital Network to support staff operations and collaboration. After a year of focused work using Vital surveys and facilitated discussions, we are continuing to deepen this work with their program over the next two years.

NESC Audit Update: Since late spring of this year, we have been going through the audit process for the overall NESC financials with specific targets for the 21st CCLC program. The



auditor just sent a draft of the audit for the year ending June 30, 2022, and June 30, 2023, and once finalized, it will be sent out to the board for email/electronic approval. The auditor will then start working on the year-end June 30, 2024 audit.

NESC Biennial Report to the State Board of Public School Education: Once the audits are completed, the NESC will schedule a date to provide our report to the State Board at an upcoming monthly meeting.

[REA Federal Funds-Dues & Memberships](#): A letter was recently shared with REAs (and other LEAs) reminding them that Federal funding cannot be used for memberships/supports for lobbying organizations. A copy of the communication from DPI is on pages 56-59.

Student Activities

NESC 21st CCLC: On August 8, the NESC was awarded 2 grants for regional 21st CCLC programming. The grant submitted for Devils Lake Public Schools was also awarded to their district.

Technology Learning Cooperative (TLC): Next rotation will be the week of October 20. The [TLC Padlet](#) has helpful resources for teachers utilizing technology equipment/modules.

Scrubs Camp, the regional health careers camp for 5th graders will be held on March 26-27, 2026. Formal registration will be sent out after January 1.

Other

Carlson/Lacina

The [2025-2026 NESC Calendar](#) is included on page 60.

Next NESC Board Meeting

The next Lead Administrator meeting is scheduled for November 12, if needed. The next NESC Joint Board Meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at Devils Lake High School, but may need to change to January because of the Jimmy Casas Leadership event that same day. The TLC Management Team will meet immediately after the NESC meeting, either in January or February.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.