



NESC Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 12:30 p.m.
NESC, 810 10th St SE, Devils Lake, ND, and Online

Board Members present: Jay Slade, Dakota Prairie; Ned Clooten, Devils Lake; Darren Sheggerud, Fessenden/Bowdon (online); Gil Black, Kensal (online); Rhandi Knutson, LRSE; Jeff Manley, Leeds (online); Daren Christianson, Langdon Area; Ben Allmaras, Maddock (online); Kent Dennis, Minnewaukan; Dave Ambers, Minnewaukan; Donna Sorensen, NDSD; Jeff Hagler, North Star; Sarah Beck-Connot, Starkweather; and Penny Morin, Tate Topa.

Board Members not present: Sheri Olson, Devils Lake; Jeff Olson, Four Winds; Dr. Carmen Simone, LRSC; Dr. Kelly Peters, Lakota; Kristi Halvorson, Midkota; Brad Nash, Mount Pleasant-Rolla; Natalie Becker, New Rockford/Sheyenne; Robert Bubach, Munich; 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

Guests

Kerri Whipple, SEEC Director of Literacy Services

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 [January 14, 2026](#), and [March 11, 2026](#), minutes on pages 3-7 of the board packet was made by Kent Dennis and seconded by Sara Beck-Connot; motion carried.

[EL Services](#)

SEEC representative Kerri Whipple provided a presentation for schools on the EL requirements, along with information on utilizing the Title III Consortium with SEEC. Handouts from the presentation are linked [here](#).



Fiscal Operations

The financial report for 4/8/2026 was reviewed on page 8. A motion was made by Jay Slade and seconded by Rhandi Knutson; motion carried.

NESC Operations

NESC Governing Board Elections are scheduled for the June 10, 2026 meeting. Terms expiring are Daren Christianson, President and Rhandi Knutson, Vice President.

The NESC has been approached by a neighboring business regarding the potential release of the “middle” office space. Due to a reduction in on-site staff, it is feasible to relocate current staff to the east side of the existing space while maintaining adequate room for meetings and future staffing needs. This change would result in an estimated annual savings of approximately \$20,000. No action was taken at this time. Additional information will be gathered and presented to the Board at a future meeting.

NDREA Continuous Improvement Process: Recently, the [NDREA Continuous Improvement Process Proposal](#) (pages 9-12) was submitted to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. A [Letter of Approval](#) (page 13) from Superintendent Bachmaier was received, and REAs will start using this process in the Spring of 2026, with NESC serving as the Internal Coordinating REA for the CREA External Review to be concluded in April-May. Erin Lacina is serving as the coordinator for the NESC External Review scheduled for the fall of 2026.

NESC Audit Update

The 2024-2025 audit is in process currently, and is expected to be completed after April 15.

[NESCS Biennial Report to the State Board of Public School Education](#) (pages 14-20) was presented on March 23, 2026.

Grants and Contracts/Professional Learning

ND COUNTS - [Essentials of Math Instruction professional development](#) (page 21)

ND Science of Reading / NDCC 15.1-21-12.1

- i) [July 22-23, 2026 Literacy Summit](#) (pages 22-23)
- ii) [2026-27 LETRS Volume 2 workshop series](#) (pages 24-26)

2025-26 and 2026-27

- iii) [NESCS Interest Session: Personalized Professional Learning/Collaborative Inquiry](#) (page 27-28; April 8, 2026 @ 3:30)
- iv) [Cognia - Continuous Improvement Planning workshops](#) (page 30, April 2026)
- v) ND A+ Office Hours: [Recordings](#)
- vi) ND Intermediary for Innovative Education: Advisory Council
- vii) Infinite Campus - No new information related to REA roles with IC
- viii) [CHAMPS & Discipline in the Secondary Classroom](#) (page 31, June and August 2026)



- ix) [Tough Kids](#) (page 32)
- x) Request for 2026-27 District Calendars - Please send district calendars to erin.lacina@nescnd.org

NESC [Cafeteria Credit](#) is available through VCSU for regional and district graduate credit opportunities (page 33-34). Contact Erin.Lacina@nescnd.org with any questions.

Student Activities

NESC 21st CCLC programs are working on finalizing budgets for the fiscal year, as well as determining if they'll apply for supplemental funding from DPI.

Technology Learning Cooperative (TLC) final rotation of equipment was held in March, equipment will remain at schools throughout the summer and into the first rotation of next fall. The [TLC Padlet](#) has resources for the consortium, including all of the modules.

Scrubs Camp was held March 26-27, 2026, at Lake Region State College, with 430 students attending.

[2025-2026 NESC Calendar](#) is on page 35, and the [2026-2027 NESC Calendar](#) is on page 36.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.