

# NESC Joint Governing and Administrative Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 12:30 p.m.  
NESC, 810 10th St SE, Devils Lake, ND

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

Board Members not present: Sheri Olson, Devils Lake; Gil Black, Kensal; Dr. Carmen Simone, LRSC; Dave Ambers, Minnewaukan; Brad Nash, Mount Pleasant-Rolla; 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 October 8, 2025, minutes on pages 3-7 of the board packet was made by Kent Dennis and seconded by Jay Slade; motion carried.



## Fiscal Operations

The financial report for 1/14/2026 was reviewed on page 8. A motion was made by Rhandi Knutson and seconded by Ned Clooten; motion carried.

## NESC Operations

2026-2027 NESC Offers of Employment are typically offered out after the February board meeting. Because we are not having a meeting in February and won't meet again until April, we would like to ensure we can extend employment offers to current staff to secure continuation of various grants, services, and programs for the 2026-2027 school year. A motion was made by Ben Allmaras and seconded by Rhandi Knutson to provide current staff with Offers of Employment for the 2026-2027 school year; motion carried.

The [Rolette Public School letter](#) of withdrawal from the NESC is included on pages 9-12, notifying the board that, effective 6/30/2026, they will be joining the NCEC REA. A [21st CCLC DPI Program Clarification](#) was requested for Rolette's participation in the NESC Cohort A 21st CCLC grant moving forward, as participation in such programs has required membership with the NESC. Guidance from DPI and the US Department of Education is included on pages 13-14, which states that we are required to continue to include Rolette in the grant, unless DPI approves their removal. The [NESC Joint Powers Agreement](#) on pages 15-17 was referenced regarding the definition of membership for the NESC.

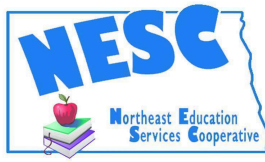
The NESC Executive Committee met before the Joint Board meeting to bring forward their recommendation: A motion was made by Kent Dennis to approve continued participation of Rolette School District in the current 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant through the existing grant period, based on federal compliance and risk mitigation requirements, and to direct administration to develop prospective policies and grant participation agreements requiring NESC membership for future grants, subject to grantor requirements. The motion further directed administration to draft a letter to the Rolette School Board outlining the Committee's concerns, with a copy to be provided to Amanda Peterson at the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. Jeff Olson seconded; motion carried.

## NESC Audit Update

The 22-23 and 23-24 audits are completed and submitted to the federal clearinghouse and the state; the 24-25 audit is in process currently.

## NESC Biennial Report to the State Board of Public School Education - March 23, 2026

The NESC will provide the audit report and an overview of the organization to the state board in March.



## Grants and Contracts/Professional Learning

ND Science of Reading / NDCC 15.1-21-12.1. Multiple workshops/series supporting SoR are happening within the NESCS and state this year, including: 1) [Explicit Instruction workshop series](#) (page 18) and 2) [Leading for Literacy Impact](#) (page 19). The *updated* NDSOR Professional Development Decision-Making Flowchart and aligned NDSOR Professional Development Catalog will be distributed to NESCS school leaders within the week.

## Infinite Campus

Contact the NESCS if there is interest in organizing any regional supports/PLCs as related to Infinite Campus. Also, if you are a 21st CCLC district, please add Jennifer Carlson to your IC team, as reporting for that program will be going through IC.

## [EL Services](#)

This has been tabled until the 4/8/2026 meeting; SEEC representative, Kerri Whipple will be at the meeting providing input and guidance for schools utilizing the EL grant with SEEC.

## Other Professional Learning

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

### 2025-26

[ND A+ Navy Essentials & Extensions](#) page 20

[ND A+ Advanced Navy Applications](#) page 21

[Paraprofessional Training Project for SpEd Paraprofessionals](#) - ND Educational Hub  
[Welcome to the Paraprofessional Training Project](#) page 22

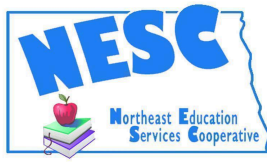
[Paraprofessional Course Reimbursement Application Form Instructions](#) page 23

### 2026-27

2026-27 NESCS professional learning requests - Schedule with [Erin Lacina](#)

The NESCS Regional Fall In-service is scheduled with Todd Whitaker on Friday, August 14, 2026, at Devils Lake HS Sports Center with the Keynote from 9:00 - 11:00 am and a leadership breakout session from 11:20 am - 1:20 pm. During the 2026-27 school year, we will provide implementation support through a virtual series with 3 sessions for leaders and 3 sessions for all educators.

NESCS [Cafeteria Credit](#) is available through VCSU for regional and district graduate credit opportunities. Contact [Erin Lacina](#) with any questions.



## Student Activities

NESC 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC: Programs recently submitted quarterly reports, which inform on program quality and progress.

Technology Learning Cooperative (TLC): The management team will meet immediately following the NESC meeting today. The mid-year rotation will happen the last week of January. There will be informational sessions provided for the laser engraver and 3D printers at the MLK Day workshop in Maddock next week. The [TLC Padlet](#) has resources for the consortium, including all of the modules.

Scrubs Camp is scheduled for March 26-27, 2026, at Lake Region State College. Registration information has been sent out to the NESC schools and is due back the end of January.

## Other

Watch upcoming ND A+ communications from ND DPI: A teacher survey will soon be distributed regarding ND A+ high school Math items and rigor; please help share this within your school. Information will soon be available regarding an interim to summative predictive element.

[2025-2026 NESC Calendar](#) is on page 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.