Directly following the Tax Asking/Final Levy - Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday, September 21, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Educational Service Unit 7, Oak Room
2657 44th Ave
Columbus, NE 68601-8537

1. Call the Meeting to Order
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:

LEADERSHIP • SERVICE • SUPPORT

Notice of this meeting was given in advance according to State Law 84-1411, by giving notice of the meeting to the public on ESU 7 website www.esu7.org and posted at location of meeting. Notice of this meeting was also given in advance to all members of the Board of Education of Educational Service Unit 7. Availability of the agenda and purpose of the hearing was communicated in the advance notice of the meeting and in the notice to the members of this hearing. All proceedings of the Board of Education of Educational Service Unit 7 were taken while the convened hearing was open to the attendance of the public.

1.1. Notification of Open Meetings Law
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:

This meeting has been preceded by reasonable advance notice and is hereby declared to be in open session. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room.

1.2. Roll Call
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

1.3. Absent Board Members
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:

Board Members Beth Kabes and Amy Blaser notified of their absence prior to the meeting.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Board member absences.

Recommended Motion(s):
Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Board member absences as presented Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

1.4. Pledge of Allegiance
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

2. Approval of Agenda
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:

The sequence of agenda topics is subject to change at the discretion of the Board.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the agenda as presented.

Recommended Motion(s):
Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

3. Welcome Visitors
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

4. Public Comment
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale: The Board has the discretion to limit the amount of time set aside for public participation.

Citizens wishing to address the Board on a certain agenda item must complete the Request to be Heard Document prior to the start of the board meeting. Citizens wishing to present petitions to the Board may do so at this time. However, the Board will only receive the petitions and not act upon them or their contents.

5. District 8 Board Application
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale: An application has been received for the board vacancy in District 4. NEB. REV. STAT. § Section 79-1217(2) states that the appointee will serve "for the balance of the unexpired term" of the board spot that has been vacated. Applications were submitted by:

- Stephanie Bell, resides in the Schuyler district region.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider, and vote to approve the resolution appointing Stephanie Bell to the Educational Service Unit No. 7 Board position based on a vacancy for a term ending on December 31, 2028.
Recommended Motion(s):
Discuss, consider, and vote to approve the resolution appointing Stephanie Bell to the Educational Service Unit No. 7 Board position based on a vacancy for a term ending on December 31, 2028 Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

6. Consent Agenda
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:

Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

If any Board member wishes to discuss an item, it must be removed from the consent agenda at which time the remaining items will be acted upon.

Consent Agenda Includes:

- Minutes from the previous meeting(s)
- Presentation of the bills
- Policy review with no recommended changes
- Other routine agenda items

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Recommended Motion(s):
Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the consent agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

6.1. Minutes
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.2. Presentation of Bills #82390 through #82592 totaling $1,348,406.98

Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:

The summary of bills for the current month total:$1,348,406.98 - Bills #82390 through #82592

General Activity Fund total: no activity

	Amount	Vendor	Description
82423	$99,785.20	Dell Technologies	School technology flow through
82424	$11,446.83	Eakes Office Solutions	Copier service agreements
82426	$8,300.00	Elizabeth Sullivan Scott	Title II Contracted Service
82431	$38,358.15	ESUCC	Zoom phones software for ESU and School flow through
82462	$35,733.00	Gregg Young Toyota	2026 Toyota Rav4
82501	$15,000.00	NE Community Foundation	Suenos Summit refund
82514	$6,817.00	Reality Works	Carl Perkins supplies
82524	$6,424.00	State of NE DAS State Accounting	Network Service Charges
82568	$27,330.00	Lexia Learning	LETRS Materials
82592	$5,098.00	Heartland Communications	School technology flow through

This is a consent item.

6.3. Reading of Article I, Section 5, E Negotiations
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.4. Reading of Article II, Section 8, B Quorum
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.5. Reading of Article II, Section 6, D Notice to Board Members
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.6. Reading of Article II, Section 6, E Notice to Media
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.7. Reading of Article II, Section 7, A Agenda Construction
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.8. Reading of Article II, Section 7, B Agenda Availability
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.9. Reading of Article II, Section 8, A Personal Presence at Meetings and Telephone Conference or Videoconference Meetings
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:

This is a consent item.

6.10. Excess Lodging & Meals
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale: Excess Lodging:

- The Professional Development Department had excess travel to report:
  - Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA) Administrator Days (July 28-31, 2026)
    - Mark Brady - $69.90
    - Brooke Koliha - $69.90
    - Ernie Valentine - $104.85
    - Kristi Hackett - $104.85
    - Beth Ericson - $104.85
    - Kendra Gustafson - $104.85
    - Mary Jo Reynolds - $104.85
  -
    - Brandy Thompson - $104.85
  - Educational Service Unit Professional Organization (ESUPO), Professional Learning Affiliate (PLA), Teaching and Learning through Innovation (TLI) (September 16-17, 2026)
    - Mark Brady - $49.00
    - Mary Jo Reynolds - $49.00
    - Kendra Gustafson - $49.00

This is a consent item.

7. Treasurer's Report
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Rationale: Review the breakdown of the Treasurer's Report.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.
Recommended Motion(s):
Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

8. 2026-2027 Resolution for Tax Asking and Final Levy
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale: Now be it therefore resolved that the Board of ESU 7 has a tax request of $3,874,484.55 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year and the final levy of the Board of ESU 7 should be, and hereby is set at .015 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the 2026-2027 Tax Asking and Final Levy Resolution as presented.
Recommended Motion(s):
Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the 2026-2027 Tax Asking and Final Levy Resolution as presented Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

9. Approval of the 2026-2027 Budget
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale:
Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the 2026-2027 Budget as presented.
Recommended Motion(s):
Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the 2026-2027 Budget as presented Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

10. Representation at the State Education Conference Delegate Assembly
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale: Selection of one Board Member to represent ESU 7 at the Delegate Assembly on Friday, November 20, 2026 from 8:00am-9:30am.

11. NASB Board of Directors ESU Seat
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee
Rationale: The following nominations have been submitted for the NASB ESU seat on the board of directors. A copy of the candidates' nomination background information is attached for the following:

- Brenda Sherman, ESU 3
- Dawn Lindsley, ESU 7
- Esther Rickert, ESU 10
- Karen Harmoney, ESU 10

The person chosen to represent this seat will be formally approved at the November 18, 2026 NASB Board Meeting. Board of directors will officially take office at the end of Delegate Assembly in November.

Note: Each ESU has the option to nominate a board member(s) but it's usually only one. Each ESU only can only vote for one person.

Administrator's Recommendation: Discuss, consider, and take all action necessary to nominate _____________ for the ESU seat on the NASB Board of Directors.
Recommended Motion(s):
Discuss, consider, and take all action necessary to nominate _____________ for the ESU seat on the NASB Board of Directors. Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

12. Administrator's Report General
Speaker(s): Administrator or Designee
Rationale:

- ESUCC Update
- Quarterly Report
- Professional Development and Print Shop Report - Director Ericson
- Special Education Report - Director Clay
- Technology Report - Director Ellsworth

12.1. Goal Update
Speaker(s): Administrator or Designee
Rationale: Goal 1: By December 2026, the ESU 7 board will formalize a process to mentor and onboard new board members.

- Extended from July to December

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider, and take all action necessary to approve the Board Governance Excellence Initiative Proposal.

Recommended Motion(s):
Discuss, consider, and take all action necessary to approve the Board Governance Excellence Initiative Proposal Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

12.2. Services Update
Speaker(s): Administrator or Designee
Rationale:

- 5 out of 19 Fall Superintendent Visits are completed.
  - High Plains
  - Palmer
  - Central City
  - Fullerton

- St. Edward

12.3. Facilities Update
Speaker(s): Administrator or Designee
Rationale: The Administrator will provide a facilities update during this item

12.3.1. Parking Lot Concrete Estimates
Rationale: Platte Valley Precast and Columbus Concrete have submitted estimates to re-do designated areas in the parking lot. Estimates identify 7 specific areas in the parking lot.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider, and take all action necessary to approve the proposal from ______ in the amount of $______.
Recommended Motion(s):
Discuss, consider, and take all action necessary to approve the proposal from ______ in the amount of $______ Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

12.4. Personnel
Speaker(s): Administrator or designee
Rationale: New Hire:
Olivia Danials - Bridges Paraprofessional. Start Date: Pending

12.5. Legislative Update
Speaker(s): Administrator or Designee
Rationale: During this item, the Administrator will provide a Legislative Update to members of the Board.

13. Committee Reports
Speaker(s): Committee Chair

13.1. Budget Committee Report
Speaker(s): Budget Committee Chair
Rationale: Reports of Budget Committee activities and discussion will take place during this item.

Committee Recommendation:

13.2. Negotiations Committee Report
Speaker(s): Negotiations Committee Chair
Rationale: Reports of activities and discussions from the Negotiations Committee will take place during this item.

Joint Budget and Negotiations Committee meeting to take place in October.

Committee Recommendation:

13.2.1. Request to recognize ESUEA as exclusive bargaining agent for 2028-2029
Speaker(s): Administrator or designee

Rationale: The ESU 7 Education Association requests that the Board representing the Educational Service Unit 7 take action to recognize ESU 7 Education Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for the non-supervisory certificated staff for the 2028-2029 contract year.

Committee Recommendation: Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to recognize ESU 7 Education Association as exclusive bargaining agent for the non-supervisory certificated staff for the 2028-2029 contract year.
Recommended Motion(s):
Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to recognize ESU 7 Education Association as exclusive bargaining agent for the non-supervisory certificated staff for the 2028-2029 contract year Passed with a motion by Board Member #1 and a second by Board Member #2.

13.3. Administrator Evaluation Committee Report
Speaker(s): Administrator Evaluation Committee Chair
Rationale: A report of activities from the Administrator Evaluation Committee will be given during this item.

Evaluation Timeline:
- **August:** Full Evaluation Committee and Administrator review Evaluation Tool and Evaluation Policy/Procedures.
- **September:** Full Board is provided a paper copy of the evaluation questions.
- **October:** Administrator sends digital evaluation, evaluation resources and completed self-assessment to the Evaluation Committee Chair no later than 5 days prior to the October Board Meeting. The chair then forwards documents on to the full Board for completion by October 31st.
- **November:** The Evaluation Committee compiles results of the full Board completed evaluations prior to the November Board Meeting. No formal report will be given at that time, just an update that the timeline is bein followed.
- **December:** The Evaluation Committee meets prior to the December Board Meeting to review with the Administrator the results of the evaluation. Report to the full Board in December Board Meeting following Closed Session requirements with the Administrator present.
- **January:** Confirm Evaluation Committee members. The Administrator provides the Evaluation Committee with goals and shares with the Board at the January Board Meeting.

Committee Recommendation:

14. Conference Report
Speaker(s): Conference Attendees
Rationale: Conference Attendees will report on their learnings.

15. Board Announcements
Rationale:

- Awards of Achievement:

    - April Emeigh - Point Award - Level I
    - Beth Kabes - Point Award - Level II
    - Richard Stephens - Point Award - Level IX
    - Bob Arp - Point Award - Level V
- Upcoming Events
    - Area Membership Meetings
        - Wednesday, September 23 - Fremont
            - Registration Deadline: September 17
            - Registered: Clark Lehr, Dawn Lindsley, Don Graff, Bob Arp, Joyce Baumert, Jack Young, Richard Stephens, April Emeigh, Marci Ostmeyer
    - State Education Conference
        - November 18-20, 2026 - Omaha
            - [2026 State Education Conference google form]
            - Registration opened September 16th & Hotel Reservations open September 30th
            - Registered: Marci Ostmeyer, Don Graff, Dawn Lindsley, Joyce Baumert, April Emeigh, Beth Kabes
    - AESA Annual Conference
        - December 2-4, 2026 - Orlando, FL
            - Registration Deadline: September 30 (early bird rates)
            - Registered: Marci Ostmeyer, Marni Danhauer, Bob Arp, Don Graff, Clark Lehr
    - New Board Member Workshops
        - December 7, 2026 - Ainsworth, Alliance & Kearney
        - December 8, 2026 - O'Neill
        - December 9, 2026 - Ogallala & Beatrice
        - January 5, 2026 - McCook & Wayne
        - January 6, 2026 - Hastings & Bellevue
    - Legislative Issues Conferences
        - January 24-25, 2026 - Lincoln, NE

16. Adjournment
Speaker(s): Board President or Designee

Created by: Morgan Morsett, Secretary to the ESU 7 Board of Directors