Regular Board of Education Meeting

Educational Service Unit 7, Oak Room
2657 44th Ave
Columbus, NE 68601-8537
Monday, June 16, 2025 at 5:30 PM
Posted Locations:

- Columbus Telegram Newspaper
- Columbus Telegram Website
- ESU 7 North Building Front Door

Posted Date: 06/06/2025

Attendance Taken at 5:32 PM.

Bob Arp:	Present
Joyce Baumert:	Present
Amy Blaser:	Present
Marni Danhauer:	Present
Karen Gomez:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Beth Kabes:	Absent
Clark Lehr:	Absent
Dawn Lindsley:	Present
Doug Pauley:	Present
Richard Stephens:	Present
Jack Young:	Present

Present: 8, Absent: 4.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order**

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.

Board President Doug Pauley called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

1.1. Notification of Open Meetings Law

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

1.3. Absent Board Members

Board Members Clark Lehr and Beth Kabes will be absent. They notified Administrator Elmshaeuser and Board President Doug Pauley prior to the meeting.

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

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Board members Karen Gomez, Beth Kabes and Clark Lehr absences as presented Passed with a motion by Joyce Baumert and a second by Bob Arp.

Karen Gomez:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Beth Kabes:	Absent
Clark Lehr:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Amy Blaser:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Doug Pauley:	Yea
Richard Stephens:	Yea
Jack Young:	Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

Board member Karen Gomez notified Board President Doug Pauley prior to the meeting of her absence. A notification prior to the meeting was not received from Board member Don Graff.

1.4. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Agenda

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.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Dawn Lindsley and a second by Joyce Baumert.

Karen Gomez:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Beth Kabes:	Absent
Clark Lehr:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Amy Blaser:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Doug Pauley:	Yea
Richard Stephens:	Yea
Jack Young:	Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

3. Welcome Visitors
Visitors included Beth Ericson, ESU 7 Professional Development Director starting on July 1, 2025 and Lisa Duranski, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher/Visually Impaired Coordinator, to present the Spotlight.

4. Public Comment
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. **Consent Agenda**

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.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the consent agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Jack Young.

Karen Gomez:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Beth Kabes:	Absent
Clark Lehr:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Amy Blaser:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Doug Pauley:	Yea
Richard Stephens:	Yea
Jack Young:	Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

5.1. Minutes

This is a consent item.

5.2. Presentation of Bills #79860 through #80031 totaling $1,518,762.36

The summary of bills for the current month total:$1,518,762.36 - Bills #79860 through #80031

General Activity Fund total: $1,121.70

	Amount	Vendor	Description
79870	$75,815.96	B-D Construction	Bridges Project
79884	$6,150.00	Diamond Heating and Air	Learning Academy Data Room AC
79889	$9,307.80	Educational Products, Inc.	Title IC Hygiene Kits
79892	$5,000.00	ESU 1	Title III Contracted Service
79897	$30,238.00	ESUCC	District's SRS Fees
79928	$18,080.00	LastPass	LastPass Renewal for ESU 7/School Districts Flow Through
79931	$155,195.20	Linewize (Family Zone)	ESU 7/School Districts Filter Renews Flow Through
79946	$62,012.00	On To College	John Baylor Test Prep for School Districts Flow Through
79953	$8,100.00	Romans, Wiemer & Associates	ESU7 Audit
79954	$128,886.95	Rutt's Heating & Air	HVAC remodel 9th payment ($14,298.55 remaining)
79962	$36,090.50	Staples Business Advantage	Paper Coop
79963	$5,857.40	State of NE DAS State Accounting	Network service charges
79978	$99,922.48	Yanda's Avl Rental	South Building AV Upgrade

This is a consent item.

5.3. Reading of Article I, Section 6, A Concept of Administration.

This is a consent item.

5.4. Reading of Article I, Section 6, B Administrator.

This is a consent item.

5.5. Reading of Article I, Section 6, C Duty and Function of the Administrator.

This is a consent item.

5.6. Reading of Article II, Section 6, B Notice of Budget Meeting.

This is a consent item.

5.7. Reading of Article III, Section 1, D Requests, Cost, and Payment.

This is a consent item.

5.8. Reading of Article III, Section 1, F Special Education Cooperative.

This is a consent item.

5.9. 2025-2026 Contract for Amy Slama, Grant Coordinator
This is a consent item.

5.10. 2025-2026 Contract for Cara Neesen, Student Services Principal
This is a consent item.

5.11. 2025-2026 Contract for Iris Medina Gonzalez, Provisionally Licensed Mental Health Practitioner
This is a consent item.

5.12. 2025-2026 Contract for Kassandra Cornwell, Provisionally Licensed Mental Health Practitioner
This is a consent item.

5.13. 2025-2026 Contract for Lynne Webster, Licensed Mental Health Practitioner
This is a consent item.

5.14. 2025-2026 Contract for Megan Welch, Mental Health Practitioner
This is a consent item.

5.15. 2025-2026 Contract for Merridie Kaup, Mental Health Practitioner
This is a consent item.

5.16. 2025-2026 Contract for Sonya Sukup, Licensed Mental Health Practitioner
This is a consent item.

5.17. 2025-2026 Contract for Tami Clay, Special Education Director

This is a consent item.

5.18. Excess Lodging and Meals
Excess Lodging and Meals:

- The LMHP Department had excess travel to report:
  - Nebraska School Mental Health Conference, Kearney, NE (May 28-29, 2025)
    - Megan Welch - $178.00, lodging
    - Merridie Kaup - $119.90, lodging
    - Sonya Sukup - $119.90, lodging
    - Ingrid Rodriguez - $119.90, lodging
    - Kassi Cornwell - $119.90, lodging
- The Learning Academy had excess travel to report:
  - Nebraska School Mental Health Conference, Kearney, NE (May 28-29, 2025)
    - Brooke Hemmer - $119.90, lodging

- The Special Education Department had excess travel to report:
  - ESUCC - ESPD (May 6, 2025)
    - Tami Clay - $89.00

This is a consent item.

5.19. Authorization of Administrator to Sign for Federal/State Funds
This is a consent item.

6. Spotlight: Early Childhood

Early Childhood Special Education Teacher/Visually Impaired Coordinator, Lisa Duranski, will present the Early Childhood spotlight.

Lisa began with a story of her 16-year-old self caring for an 18-year-old special-needs individual. She started her Special Education teaching career in 1993, and she's starting her 33rd year, doing the exact same job. The Early Childhood team is made up of 12 people: seven Early Childhood Special Education teachers, and 5 Speech Language Pathologists. Anyone can make a referral to the program in the community since they serve ages from birth to five. The children are evaluated and if they qualify for services, an IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan) is developed for ages birth to three and an IEP (Individualized Education Program) for ages three to five. Children and families receive services until the child goes into kindergarten, where services then transition to their home district with the help of the ESU 7 Early Childhood team. Nebraska has been a birth mandate state since 1978 and is one of five. This means children who require these types of services will get them free of cost. If they live outside these 5 states, they might pay for the services out of pocket. The Early Childhood team serves 18 school districts, which are all of ESU 7's districts except Columbus Public School. They have their own program and operate within their own district. Of those 18 schools, 210 students have been referred and evaluated this past year. Including the Columbus district data, there was a total of 323. The beginning of the year has the lowest numbers since children have moved out of the birth to five range into kindergarten, then as the year continues on, the number rises with the number of referrals. After the presentation, the board members asked questions of the Special Education Coordinator, Lisa Duranski.

- Are they all new referrals? Yes, the 323 were all new referrals. They are evaluated and if found eligible, they begin receiving services. Those who are not found eligible or later no longer qualify do not receive services.
- Who supports kindergartners? Resource teachers in their home districts. The ESU 7 early childhood special education team only supports children if they are under the age of 5.
- Is funding through the state? No, funding is received federally.
- What is the timeline for referral to services? Rules for ages from birth to three are different from ages three to five. Ages birth to three have 45 calendar days to determine services and write goals if they are eligible. They also receive services all year round. Ages three to five have 45 school days, or 60 calendar days, whichever comes first, and typically only receive services during the school year.
- Do you get referrals from people who are not parents? Yes, most referrals actually come from doctors.

- Do you get parents who don't want services? Yes, in cases where there has been a neglect or abuse charge, ESU 7's Early Childhood department is an automatic referral. The child has to be evaluated since there's a high probability of needing services; however, parents can still say no. It has only happened once in Lisa's tenure.
- Do you work with CASA? Occasionally, it can be difficult to figure out what district a child belongs to. School districts are responsible if the child is made a ward in their district.
- Do you only have families for a few months? Sometimes, especially if the child has changed foster care placements.
- Do males ever apply for these types of positions? Yes, there have been 2 physical therapists.
- What is your case load per staff member? It looks different for each person. For example, one Speech Language Pathologist is assigned to Schuyler so she can take on a lot more students. Another teacher has 9 districts she travels to, so she serves fewer students since there is more travel time involved. However, it's about 20 children per staff member.

7. Treasurer's Report

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.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Doug Pauley.

Karen Gomez:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Beth Kabes:	Absent
Clark Lehr:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Amy Blaser:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Doug Pauley:	Yea
Richard Stephens:	Yea
Jack Young:	Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

8. Policy Changes

The 2025 Legislative session passed AM 1617 to LB 150 which updates Nebraska's Fair Employment Practice Act. This requires ESU 7 to change several of the policies. The change is in the non-discrimination statement and is adding the wording "military or".

Non-Discrimination:I will not make decisions which affect personnel, students, parents, the public, or otherwise on the basis of sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective

hairstyles), color, religion,**military or** veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, or on the basis of constitutionally protected speech.

Several bidding references were updated in the federal regulations governing grants and federal audit requirements. The procurement policy has been updated to reflect the new terminology for "**simplified acquisition purchases**."

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve updates to all the policies below.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve updates to all the policies below. Passed with a motion by Jack Young and a second by Marni Danhauer.

Karen Gomez:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Beth Kabes:	Absent
Clark Lehr:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Amy Blaser:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Doug Pauley:	Yea
Richard Stephens:	Yea
Jack Young:	Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

Administrator Elmshaeuser explained that after the legislation season finishes, there are typically changes to policy. Since these policies all have similar changes, they've been grouped into one agenda item. The wording change was to add "military or" before "veteran status". And to change the wording of small purchases to "simplified acquisition purchases" to align with the federal language.

9. Reading of Article V, Section 1, A Policy of Non-Discrimination.

A. Policy of Non-Discrimination

ESU 7 does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, **military or** veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, gender identity or sexual orientation, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to designated youth groups. Reasonable accommodations will be provided to employees with disabilities and to those who are pregnant, have given birth, or

have a related medical condition, as required by law. Complaints or concerns involving discrimination should be addressed to:

Students, Employees, and Others: ~~Marci Ostmeyer~~ **Beth Ericson**, Professional Development Director, 2657 44th Avenue, Columbus, NE 68601 (402) 564-5753 (**bericson@esu7.org**).

ESU 7 will aim to complete its investigation within ten (10) working days after receiving a complaint or report, unless extenuating circumstances exist **as determined by the investigator**. Extenuating circumstances may include the unavailability of witnesses due to illness or incapacitation, or additional time needed because of the complexity of the investigation, the need for outside experts to evaluate the evidence (such as forensic evidence), or multiple complainants or victims. If extenuating circumstances exist, the extended timeframe to complete the investigation ~~will not exceed ten (10) additional working days without the consent of the complainant, unless the alleged victim agrees to a longer timeline.~~ **be determined by the investigator and in compliance with any legal requirements.** Periodic status updates will be given to the parties, when appropriate.

ESU 7 ~~will~~ **may, when appropriate or when legally required,** send concurrently to the parties written notification of the decision (findings and any remedy) regarding the complaint within one (1) ~~working day~~ **week** after the investigation is completed. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 11232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99, permits ESU 7 to disclose relevant information to a student who was discriminated against or harassed.

3. Level 3 (Appeal to the Board)

If the party is not satisfied with the Administrator's determination, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Board within five (5) working days after receiving the Administrator's determination. The Board will review the appeal, the Administrator's determination, the investigative documentation and decision, and allow the party to address the Board **or a committee of the Board** ~~at a Board meeting~~ to present his or her appeal. ~~The party will be allowed to address the Board at the Board's next regularly scheduled Board meeting (unless the Board receives the appeal within one week of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting) or at a time and date agreed to by the Board, Compliance Coordinator and the party.~~ The Board ~~will~~ **or Committee of the Board may, in its discretion,** issue a written determination about the appeal ~~within thirty (30) days after the party addresses the Board.~~ **The Board or Committee of the Board may, in the alternative, vote on the appeal and send the party the outcome of the vote.** The party who filed the appeal will be sent the Board's determination. ~~at the time it is issued, and a copy will be sent to the Compliance Coordinator.~~ The Board's determination, and any actions taken, will be final on behalf of ESU 7.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article V, Section 1, A as presented.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve Article V, Section 1, A as presented Passed with a motion by Jack Young and a second by Doug Pauley.

Karen Gomez:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Beth Kabes:	Absent
Clark Lehr:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Amy Blaser:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Doug Pauley:	Yea
Richard Stephens:	Yea
Jack Young:	Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

Administrator Elmshaeuser summarized the rationale statement regarding the additional changes to the non-discrimination policy. All of these changes have been provided and revised by Justin Knight.

10. Handbook Committee Update - Handbook Approvals

Annually, the Board of Educational Service Unit 7, will review and approve the ESU 7 Employee Handbook and ESU 7 Student/Parent Handbooks. The Handbook Committee will provide an update. Chariperson Joyce Baumert will provide an overview of how the handbook revision process went this year and if any changes are necessary.

Committee Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to approve the ESU 7 Student/Parent Handbooks and the ESU 7 Employee Handbook as presented.

Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to approve the ESU 7 Student/Parent Handbooks and the ESU 7 Employee Handbook as presented Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Jack Young.

Karen Gomez:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Beth Kabes:	Absent
Clark Lehr:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Amy Blaser:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea

Doug Pauley:	Yea
Richard Stephens:	Yea
Jack Young:	Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

Handbook Committee Chair Joyce Baumert reviewed the handbook changes. The Bridges program description has been changed due to a new teacher/principal. The "Dignity Room" has been changed to "Calm Down Room" to better align with the program structure. There were some wording changes to remove dollar prices regarding damage repair. Overall, the computer application/software usage and permissions were updated. The Level III calendars have been updated.
In the Employee Handbook, some updates include the addition of new Board members, Level III programs name change, and Production to Print Shop name change. Changes were made to the remote work procedure, so that the Chief Administrator has the final decision. Also, the retirement and benefits section was updated to reflect the new percentages determined by the 2025 Legislative session approval of LB 645.

Handbook Committee Member Bob Arp shared how in the first years of the committee there had been major changes and updates, and each year the changes continue to become smaller since the handbooks are more refined.

11. Authorization of the Administrator to Pay July Bills in absence of July Board Meeting

The ESU 7 Board of Education will not meet in July, 2025. This Board action gives authority to the Administrator to pay July bills. The ESU 7 Board will approve these expenses in the next possible Board Meeting.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the Administrator's payment of bills in July 2025**.**

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the Administrator's payment of bills in July 2025 Passed with a motion by Joyce Baumert and a second by Doug Pauley.

Karen Gomez:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Beth Kabes:	Absent
Clark Lehr:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Amy Blaser:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Doug Pauley:	Yea

Richard Stephens:	Yea
Jack Young:	Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

July will be the first month bills are signed and paid by Marci Ostmeyer, Chief Administrator, beginning July 1, 2025.

12. Budgeting for additional 1% Budget Authority

    Nebraska Statute allows an additional 1% in budgeted property tax asking requiring an affirmative vote of 75% of the governing body for approval. These additional budget authority dollars remain critical as we continue to operate with the one and a half cent levy, no state aid funding for 2025-2026, and spending restrictions for the upcoming years. In the event valuations change or additional funding becomes available, this action will allow ESU 7 additional budget authority to access those dollars.

    Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the additional 1% in budgeted tax asking.

    Administrator Elmshaeuser stated that we do not have 75% of the board present. This item will be moved and voted on in the August agenda.

13. Budget Hearing and Budget Summary, followed by the Final Tax Request Hearing, and the followed by the Regular Board Meeting - Monday, September 15, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. in the ESU 7 Oak Room
    Monday, September 15, at 5:15 pm in the ESU 7 Oak Room - Budget Hearing and Budget Summary, followed by the Final Tax Request Hearing, which will be followed by the Regular Board Meeting to start at 5:30pm or when the Final Tax Request Hearing is concluded, whichever is later.

    Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the Monday, September 15 schedule for the Budget Hearing and Budget Summary, Final Tax Request Hearing, and the Regular Board Meeting as presented Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the Monday, September 15 schedule for the Budget Hearing and Budget Summary, Final Tax Request Hearing, and the Regular Board Meeting as presented Passed with a motion by Dawn Lindsley and a second by Jack Young.

Karen Gomez:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Beth Kabes:	Absent
Clark Lehr:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Amy Blaser:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea

Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Doug Pauley:	Yea
Richard Stephens:	Yea
Jack Young:	Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

14. Resolution on Training Requirements
After the passage of LB 1329, school districts are required to determine the length of time for every required annual training. ESU 7 will follow the same requirements for the same training we do for our pre-service days.

Administrator Recommendation: Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the resolution as presented.
Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the resolution as presented
Passed with a motion by Doug Pauley and a second by Jack Young.

Karen Gomez:	Absent
Don Graff:	Absent
Beth Kabes:	Absent
Clark Lehr:	Absent
Bob Arp:	Yea
Joyce Baumert:	Yea
Amy Blaser:	Yea
Marni Danhauer:	Yea
Dawn Lindsley:	Yea
Doug Pauley:	Yea
Richard Stephens:	Yea
Jack Young:	Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 4

15. **Administrator's Report General**

- ESUCC Update - No update
- Professional Development and Print Shop Report - Director Ostmeyer
- Special Education Report - Director Clay
- Technology Report - Director Ellsworth
- Upcoming Events
    - NASB Leadership Workshops
        - July 28, 2025 - Gearing
        - July 29, 2025 - Kearney
        - July 30, 2025 - Lincoln
    - NASB Area Membership Meetings
        - August 19, 2025 - Valentine
        - August 20, 2025 - Gering
        - August 21, 2025 - Kearney

        - **August 26, 2025 - York**
        - August 27, 2025 - Norfolk
        - September 3, 2025 - North Platte
        - September 9, 2025 - Omaha
        - September 10, 2025 - Nebraska City
        - **September 24, 2025 - Fremont**
    - NASB Labor Relations Conference
        - October 1-2, 2025 - Lincoln
    - 2025 State Education Conference
        - November 19-21, 2025 - Omaha
    - New Board Member Workshop
        - December 3, 2025 - Kearney
    - AESA Annual Conference
        - December 3-5, 2025 - Colorado Springs, CO

Director Ostmeyer shared that June 16th was her last Professional Development meeting as the Professional Development Director. Beth Ericson has been sitting in on the last few meetings. The Professional Development team has things in place that are starting to work for next year. The Print Shop's new duplicator has arrived. Its purpose is to print large volumes of the same item at a small cost. For example, a school district sent in envelopes to have their address and logo printed. The machine can do 500 at a time before it needs to be readjusted. For the summer work, the online ordering system has over 900 orders waiting for the first day of school, which does not include hard copy order forms that have been turned in by hand. Regarding the Chief Administrator Transition, Administrator Elmshaeuser and Director Ostmeyer are continuing to meet weekly, adding and crossing off the list. Director Ostmeyer provided a "Sips and Conversation" sign up so she could meet with each board member prior to her first board meeting in August. Beth Ericson shared she has been enjoying getting to know everyone at ESU 7 and getting involved. She has also been meeting with Director Ostmeyer about once a week to go through questions and anything transitional.

Director Ellsworth provided a technology update. District Technology Coordinators are able to do things at the schools they don't usually get to do since school is out of session. This includes resetting computers for the students. Last year, the technology department switched manager software, which has allowed the coordinators less manual work. With the extra time, they are able to do more in-depth work on the multi-year projects this summer. So far, the Technology department has billed over $20,000 in 16 days this summer. Director Ellsworth also explained that District Technology Coordinators are spending time in other schools since they are not contracted to their home schools during the summer. However, they still get one day a week in their home district to continue being caught up.

15.1.	Goal Update Goals - Attached for your Review

Goal 1: By July 2025, the ESU 7 board will have advertised for a Chief Administrator, completed the initial process, sent a contract, hired and Chief Administrator, made the announcement, and begun the onboarding process.

- 100% complete: In December, the ESU 7 board hired Marci Ostmeyer as the Chief Administrator of ESU 7 for the 2025-26 school year.

Goal 2: By July 2025, the ESU 7 board will attend at least two professional/personal learning events annually.

- 66% complete: Seven of the 12 board members have been to two professional/personal learning events. Two board members have been to one.

Goal 3: By July 2025, the ESU 7 board will attend the corresponding school district board meetings at least once every two years to report the tailored services provided by ESU 7 and the outcomes measured.

- 25% complete:
  - Clarkson - 10.9.2024
  - Fullerton - 11.11.2024
  - Boone Central - 1.13.2025
  - Osceola - 2.10.2025
  - East Butler - 2.12.2025

Goal 4: By July 2025, the ESU 7 board will continue to use operationalized communication materials detailing tailored services and outcomes at scheduled visits to each district.

- 100% complete: Board members along with a Director have attended board meetings for Clarkson, Fullerton, Boone Central, Osceola, and East Butler. Communication materials were details and tailored for each district specific to the services the district receives form ESU 7.

15.2. Services Update

- SMART Update (See PDF Attachment)

Administrator Elmshaeuser shared that the 3-year comparison has been provided. There is still research being done as to why the numbers from the previous 2 years are much higher than the current year. A glitch has been discovered in the SIMPL/SMART system. This is being looked into to verify our data moving forward.

15.3. Facilities Update
The Administrator will provide a facilities update during this item

	Administrator Elmshaeuser shared that the HVAC training has been completed with Rutt's and a service agreement was signed. Director Ellsworth and Business Manager Linda Shefcyk have accounts in the system. The Bridges project completion is still waiting for the sidewalk to be completed for the Fire Marshall to provide written permission for occupancy. Administrator Elmshaeuser explained the importance of it needing to be completed by August 1, 2025 for the beginning of the school year. Director Ostmeyer and Administrator Elmshaeuser will be meeting with Mike Kennedy from RVW. Director Ostmeyer stated a Buildings and Grounds committee meeting would be scheduled in August.
15.4.	Personnel - 2025-2026 Contracts All Classified/Non Certificated Hires and Resignations under this item. Not an action item. 2025-2026 Contracts offered and authorized by the Chief Administrator for the following staff: - Alicia Kardisco-Hastreiter, Paraprofessional - Ashley Lerch, Paraprofessional - Barb Brockhaus, Paraprofessional - Breena Walkenhorst, Paraprofessional - Harriet Kibalya, Paraprofessional - Iriana Medel, Paraprofessional - Jeri Glenn, Paraprofessional - Joanna Terrazas, Paraprofessional - Kaylee Olmer, Paraprofessional - Kristen Cattau, Paraprofessional - Sherry Olney. Paraprofessional - Tammy Semrad, Paraprofessional
15.5.	Legislative Update During this item, the Administrator will provide a Legislative Update to members of the Board. Administrator Elmshaeuser, shared the Open Meetings Act and has had some updates, thus the new poster. It went into effect immediately. Due to LB 645 there have been changes to the contribution of the employee and employer to the retirement plan. Administrator Elmshaeuser explained the different contributions listed in the attached legislative report. Since the funding ratio is above 98%, the contribution rate has dropped a percentage that will increase all employees' checks this month slightly . Board member Bob Arp asked what determined the funding ratio? Administrator Elmshaeuser explained the ratio is currently at 99.9% and almost fully funded by those contributing to the fund.
15.6.	AESA Annual Conference The 2025 AESA Annual Conference Information Request form will be emailed to all board members. Please indicate if you intend on attending and fill out the

necessary information. Please submit the form to Secretary to the Board, Morgan Morsett by August 1, 2025.

16. **Committee Reports**

16.1. Budget Committee Report

Reports of Budget Committee activities and discussion will take place during this item.

Committee Recommendation:

Budget Committee Chair Dawn Lindsley provided an update. The committee reviewed Special Education changes from last month to this month. The building improvement budget will be reduced since HVAC system is completed. The playground budget costs will be included in next year's budget. It won't be completed until after this fiscal year. Emergency heat cost was also added into the budget due to concerns this past winter with the temperature and heating of the building. In August, the committee will go over any changes from June and July along with grants.

16.2. Administrator Evaluation Committee Report

A report of activities from the Administrator Evaluation Committee will be given during this item.

Evaluation Timeline:

- **August:** Evaluation Committee Chair and Administrator review Evaluation Tool and Evaluation Policy/Procedures.
- **March:** Full Board is provided a paper copy of the evaluation questions.
- **April:** Administrator sends digital evaluation and evaluation resources to the Evaluation Committee Chair in the first week of April. The chair then forwards on to the full Board for completion by April Board Meeting. Board will send their completed evaluation tool to the Evaluation Committee prior to the April Board Meeting. Administrator completes Evaluation Tool as self-assessment and sends it to Evaluation Chair on or before April 30th.
- **May:** The Committee Chair will send the completed Administrator self-assessment to the full Board after May 1. Evaluation Committee compiles results of full Board completed evaluations prior to the May Board Meeting.
- **June:** Evaluation Committee meets prior to June Board Meeting to review with the Administrator the results of evaluation. Report to full Board in June Board Meeting following Closed Session requirements with Administrator present.

Committee Recommendation:

Evaluation Committee Chair Marni Danhauer provided an update. There was a great turnout for the evaluation form, which included very positive feedback. There were many proficient and distinguished ratings. Administrator Elmshaeuser has

	done a good job keeping ESU 7 moving forward in the year she's been here. There will be future discussion regarding the evaluation timeline and the position change to Marci Ostmeyer. Board President Doug Pauley thanked Administrator Elmshaeuser and said she provided a great transition for us.
17.	Conference Report Conference Attendees will report on their learnings.
18.	Adjournment Board President Doug Pauley adjourned the meeting adjourned at 6:46pm.