



## **Regular Board of Education Meeting**

Educational Service Unit 7, Oak Room

2657 44th Ave

Columbus, NE 68601-8537

Monday, August 17, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Posted Locations:

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

Posted Date: 08/08/2026

Attendance Taken at 5:32 PM.

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Bob Arp:          | Present |
| Joyce Baumert:    | Present |
| Amy Blaser:       | Present |
| Marni Danhauer:   | Present |
| April Emeigh:     | Present |
| Don Graff:        | Present |
| Beth Kabes:       | Absent  |
| Clark Lehr:       | Present |
| Dawn Lindsley:    | Present |
| Richard Stephens: | Present |
| Jack Young:       | Present |

Present: 10, Absent: 1.

### **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](http://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 Dawn Lindsley 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 Vice President Beth Kabes notified of her absence 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 member absences as presented Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Joyce Baumert.

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Beth Kabes:       | Absent |
| Bob Arp:          | Yea    |
| Joyce Baumert:    | Yea    |
| Amy Blaser:       | Yea    |
| Marni Danhauer:   | Yea    |
| April Emeigh:     | Yea    |
| Don Graff:        | Yea    |
| Clark Lehr:       | Yea    |
| Dawn Lindsley:    | Yea    |
| Richard Stephens: | Yea    |
| Jack Young:       | Yea    |

Yea: 10, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

### 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 Jack Young and a second by Don Graff.

Beth Kabes: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea

Marni Danhauer: Yea

April Emeigh: Yea

Don Graff: Yea

Clark Lehr: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 10, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

## 3. Welcome Visitors

## 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. District 8 Board Vacancy

Applications have not been received for the board vacancy in District 8. NEB. REV. STAT. § Section 32-574 states, "Unless otherwise provided by law, all vacancies shall be filled within forty-five days after the vacancy occurs unless good cause is shown that the requirement imposes an undue burden."

District 8 includes the following school districts, Clarkson, Columbus, David City, Lakeview, Schuyler. The term will expire December 31, 2028.

As of August 17, 2026, there are 2 people interested. More information to be provided next month.

## 6. **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 Clark Lehr and a second by Marni Danhauer.

Beth Kabes: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea

Marni Danhauer: Yea

April Emeigh: Yea

Don Graff: Yea

Clark Lehr: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 10, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

### 6.1. Minutes

**This is a consent item.**

### 6.2. Presentation of Bills #82046 through #82213 totaling \$1,249,141.81

The summary of bills for the current month total: \$1,249,141.81 - Bills  
#82046 through #82213

General Activity Fund total: No Activity

|       | Amount      | Vendor                         | Description                           |
|-------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 82046 | \$9,731.27  | 402 Electric                   | Warehouse lighting replacement        |
| 82060 | \$75,000.00 | Beringer Htg & Air             | LA building HVAC replacement/upgrade  |
| 82066 | \$15,000.00 | CASASLWP, LLC                  | Title II contracted service           |
| 82077 | \$15,236.95 | Columbus Carpet                | Cen7ter flooring                      |
| 82097 | \$28,789.00 | ESUCC                          | District SRS                          |
| 82106 | \$20,927.03 | FNBO-DE                        | School technology flow through        |
| 82117 | \$11,665.00 | Heartland Communications       | School technology flow through        |
| 82125 | \$20,930.00 | Kagan Professional Development | Title II contracted service           |
| 82130 | \$7,908.12  | Lakeview                       | Title II and CLSD grant reimbursement |
| 82158 | \$14,032.61 | Powerschool                    | Perform and Records software          |
| 82178 | \$20,000.00 | TNTP, Inc.                     | CLSD In person training               |
| 82183 | \$8,717.23  | Wasabi Technologies LLC        | School technology flow through        |
| 82208 | \$5,462.10  | Renaissance Learning           | Educlimber                            |
| 82212 | \$10,690.00 | Teaching Strategies            | CLSD grant materials                  |
| 82214 | \$4,062.00  | Columbus Painting              | Painting in North building            |
| 82215 | \$1,161.00  | Columbus Painting              | Painting in South building            |

**This is a consent item.**

6.3. Presentation of Bills #82216 through #82389 totaling \$1,256,747.11

The summary of bills for the current month total: \$1,356,747.11 - Bills #82216 through #82389

General Activity Fund total: No activity

|       | Amount      | Vendor                         | Description                                           |
|-------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 82228 | \$63,970.00 | Beringer Htg & Air             | LA building HVAC replacement/upgrade                  |
| 82251 | \$50,232.74 | Dell Technologies              | School technology flow through                        |
| 82253 | \$18,697.17 | Eakes Office Solutions         | Copier service agreements                             |
| 82260 | \$5,000.00  | ESU 2                          | Title III contracted services                         |
| 82262 | \$12,565.00 | ESUCC                          | World Book, Canvas Renewal, Cisco Duo Security Access |
| 82273 | \$41,525.48 | FNBO-DE                        | School technology flow through                        |
| 82303 | \$23,531.75 | <a href="#">JourneyEd</a> Inc. | School technology flow through                        |

|       |             |                                  |                                          |
|-------|-------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 82307 | \$8,436.00  | Kiddie Cab                       | T1C Summer School Student Transportation |
| 82310 | \$7,982.40  | Lakeview                         | Various Grant reimbursements             |
| 82346 | \$6,357.40  | State of NE DAS State Accounting | Network Service Charges                  |
| 82356 | \$5,673.55  | Worthington Direct               | Cen7ter storage shelving                 |
| 82358 | \$5,521.49  | Carol Tolman                     | CLSD grant contracted service            |
| 82375 | \$77,521.50 | Just Right Reader Inc.           | CLSD grant literacy materials            |

**This is a consent item.**

6.4. Reading of Article I, Section 1, A ESU Name

**This is a consent item.**

6.5. Reading of Article I, Section 1, C Statutory Role

**This is a consent item.**

nth

6.6. Reading of Article I, Section 1, D Principle Office

**This is a consent item.**

6.7. Reading of Article I, Section 1, E Boundaries

**This is a consent item.**

6.8. Excess Lodging & Meals  
Excess Lodging:

- The Professional Development Department had excess travel to report:
  - Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Conference, Orlando, FL. (June 28-July 1, 2026)
    - Kendra Gustafson - \$285.39
  - 3rd Annual Standards Based Grading Conference, Cedar Falls, IA. (June 15, 2026)
    - Mark Brady - \$19.92
- The Administration Department had excess travel to report:
  - Humanex Community & Leadership Summit, Omaha, NE. (June 24-25, 2026)
    - Marci Ostmeyer - \$54.00
    - Sonya Sukup - \$54.00

- Association of Educational Service Agencies Summer Leadership Conference, Riverside, CA. (July 14-17, 2026)
  - Marci Ostmeyer - \$279.00
- Nebraska Council of School Administrators Administrator Days, Kearney, NE. (July 28-31, 2026)
  - Marci Ostmeyer - \$79.90

**This is a consent item.**

6.9. Disposal of Inventory

**This is a consent item.**

6.10. 2026-2027 Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA) Dues

The Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of rural schools and communities. Since 1981, NRCSA has been committed to protecting the well-being of public education and implementing its mission of providing quality education for all children.

NRCSA is an Association consisting of 195 school districts and ESU's in Nebraska working together to support and promote quality educational programs for students in rural Nebraska. Through its members NRCSA serves the interests of over 75,000 children in 88 counties and 24 legislative districts.

**This is a consent item.**

6.11. 2026-2027 Contract for Brandy Thompson, Professional Development Career Academy Coordinator

**This is a consent item.**

6.12. 2026-2027 Contract for Brooke Koliha, Professional Development Coordinator

**This is a consent item.**

6.13. 2026-2027 Contract for Cynthia Alarcon, Grant Coordinator

**This is a consent item.**

6.14. 2026-2027 Contract for Dan Ellsworth, Network Operations Director

**This is a consent item.**

6.15. 2026-2027 Contract for Ernie Valentine, Professional Development Coordinator

**This is a consent item.**

6.16. 2026-2027 Contract for Kendra Gustafson, Professional Development Coordinator

**This is a consent item.**

6.17. 2026-2027 Contract for Marci Haight, Grant Coordinator

**This is a consent item.**

6.18. 2026-2027 Contract for Beth Ericson, Professional Development Director

**This is a consent item.**

- 6.19. 2026-2027 Contract for Mark Brady, Professional Development Coordinator  
**This is a consent item.**
- 6.20. 2026-2027 Contract for Martha (Vanessa) Gascon-Guarcas, MEP Education Liaison  
**This is a consent item.**
- 6.21. 2026-2027 Contract for Michelle Olson, Grant Writer  
**This is a consent item.**
- 6.22. 2026-2027 Contract for Otis Pierce, Professional Development Coordinator  
**This is a consent item.**
- 6.23. 2026-2027 Contract for Richard Stuart, Information Technology Specialist  
**This is a consent item.**
- 6.24. 2026-2027 Contract for Stephanie Johnson, ASD Behavior Specialist  
**This is a consent item.**
- 6.25. 2026-2027 Contract for Travis Kassing, Network & Computer Systems Engineer  
**This is a consent item.**

7. June and July Treasurer's Report

Review the breakdown of the Treasurer's Report for the months of June and July

**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 Amy Blaser.

Beth Kabes: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea

Marni Danhauer: Yea

April Emeigh: Yea

Don Graff: Yea

Clark Lehr: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 10, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

8. Board Spotlight - 2026 Ear Marked Cash on Hand

Administrator Ostmeyer will present this month's spotlight on 2026 Ear Marked Cash on Hand. Note - this is the proposal for the next year's budget, it is NOT finalized.

Administrator Ostmeyer reviewed the attachment. ESU's pay for things by saving up for it, thus creating the amounts in the earmarked cash on hand. These are the proposed amounts for potential spending in the next year. By law, we are not allowed to have more than 50% of our budget in cash on hand.

Board member Don Graff asked if the valuations are available yet and if there's been any information received regarding federal grants for the next year. Administrator Ostmeyer answered that valuations would be available on the 20th and there is no indication that our federal grants are in jeopardy.

9. Mileage Reimbursement Rate

The IRS Mileage rate as of July 1, 2026 is \$0.76 per mile, increased from \$0.725 per mile.

Article III, Section 4, D: Coffee Act Policy (Reimbursable Expenses)

Reimbursement of Expenses. The ESU will pay the registration costs, tuition costs, fees or charges for attendance by Board members at such approved functions. The ESU will pay mileage at the rate allowed by law (that is, the rate established by the Department of Administrative Services) or actual travel expense if travel is authorized by commercial or charter means. The ESU will pay meals and lodging at a rate not exceeding the applicable federal rate unless a fully itemized claim is submitted substantiating the costs actually incurred in excess of such rate and such additional expenses are expressly approved by the Board.

For employees and volunteers, the ESU will pay costs and make reimbursements in the same manner as provided above for Board member attendance, unless otherwise established by policy, Board action, contract, or negotiated agreement.

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the IRS mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.76 per mile beginning July 1, 2026, as presented.

Discuss, consider and take any necessary action to approve the IRS mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.76 per mile beginning July 1, 2026, as presented Passed with a motion by Don Graff and a second by Amy Blaser.

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Beth Kabes:       | Absent |
| Bob Arp:          | Yea    |
| Joyce Baumert:    | Yea    |
| Amy Blaser:       | Yea    |
| Marni Danhauer:   | Yea    |
| April Emeigh:     | Yea    |
| Don Graff:        | Yea    |
| Clark Lehr:       | Yea    |
| Dawn Lindsley:    | Yea    |
| Richard Stephens: | Yea    |
| Jack Young:       | Yea    |

Yea: 10, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Administrator Ostmeyer clarified that the Mileage Reimbursement Rate is brought to the board twice a year, once in January and once in July. If there is no change, it goes in the consent agenda. If there is a change, it is an action item in the regular agenda.

10. 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 2026-2027, 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.

Discuss, consider and take all necessary action to approve the additional 1% in budgeted tax asking Passed with a motion by Bob Arp and a second by Don Graff.

Beth Kabes: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea

Marni Danhauer: Yea

April Emeigh: Yea

Don Graff: Yea

Clark Lehr: Yea

Dawn Lindsley: Yea

Richard Stephens: Yea

Jack Young: Yea

Yea: 10, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

This allows ESU 7 the authority to spend an extra 1% of money that ESU 7 receives, without having to hold another budget hearing.

11. Romans, Wiemer & Associates Audit Bid

**Administrator Recommendation:** Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to approve the Romans, Wiemer & Associates Audit Bid.

Discuss, consider, and take any necessary action to approve the Romans, Wiemer & Associates Audit Bid Passed with a motion by Richard Stephens and a second by Marni Danhauer.

Beth Kabes: Absent

Bob Arp: Yea

Joyce Baumert: Yea

Amy Blaser: Yea

Marni Danhauer: Yea

April Emeigh: Yea

Don Graff: Yea

Clark Lehr: Yea  
Dawn Lindsley: Yea  
Richard Stephens: Yea  
Jack Young: Yea  
Yea: 10, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Romans, Wiemer & Associates submit a bid every 3 years. They are the only Auditor that submits a bid and ESU 7 has used them for quite a few years.

## 12. **Administrator's Report General**

- ESUCC Update
- ALICAP Letter & Certificate
- Professional Development and Print Shop Report - Director Ericson
- Special Education Report - Director Clay
- Technology Report - Director Ellsworth

Administrator Ostmeier reviewed the ESUCC update slide and the ALICAP letter & certificate.

Director Clay is absent, her update is attached.

Director Ericson reported the Print Shop had a great summer and there was not a severe backlog. Summer part-time help was released a few weeks early despite posters being a hot commodity. The Professional Development department completed their summer trainings and has started back into schools. The Professional Development Department has developed an online literacy course which is being piloted with Columbus Public Schools this year. ESU 7 is approved as a vendor to use CLSD funds for reimbursement.

Director Ellsworth shared the Technology Department bought a thermal camera and a fiber optic tester. The thermal camera helps with on campus projects including the HVAC system and the fiber optic tester helps districts off campus.

### 12.1. Goal Update

Goal 1: By ~~July~~ December 2026, the ESU 7 board will formalize a process to mentor and onboard new board members.

- Extended to December

Goal 2: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will attend at least two professional/personal learning events annually.

- Update attached

Goal 3: By July 2026, 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.

- Update attached

Goal 4: By July 2026, the ESU 7 board will continue to use the operationalized communication materials detailing tailored services and outcomes at scheduled visits to each district and train board members on the meaning of the data.

- Example attached

Director Ostmeyer reviewed the 2025-2026 Board of Education goals. Goal 1 has been extended to December and more intentional time will be spent due to the new upcoming board members after the election.

Board Member Jack Young asked if the data docs given to the district board meetings were distributed via hard copy or digitally. Administrator Ostmeyer confirmed they are handed a hard copy at every meeting.

#### 12.2. Services Update

- SMART Update

The service year runs from August 1 to July 31. The services on the first page of the Last 5 Years data are unique services offered by ESU 7. Administrator Ostmeyer then continued to review the data from the last 6 years.

#### 12.3. Facilities Update

The Administrator will provide a facilities update during this item. Administrator Ostmeyer reviewed the facilities updates that took place around the ESU 7 campus over summer break.

#### 12.4. **Personnel**

New Hires:

Jayne Hoffmeister, Bridges Paraprofessional. Start date, August 10, 2026.

Ashlynn Follett, Bridges Paraprofessional. Start date, August 10, 2026.

Melissa Doles, Bridges Paraprofessional. Start date, August 10, 2026.

Trystan Berry, Bridges Paraprofessional. Start date, August 10, 2026.

Sierra Rhynalds, Bridges Paraprofessional. Start date, August 10, 2026.

Kathy Sebastian, Bridges Paraprofessional. Start date, August 10, 2026.

Jayne Hoffmeister, Bridges Paraprofessional. Start date, August 10, 2026.

Alex Kemp, Cen7er Paraprofessional. Start date, August 10, 2026.

Jakelin Ortega, Learning Academy Paraprofessional Intern. Start date, August 10, 2026.

Maria Delgado Pinedo, Title IC Education Program Recruiter. Start Date: August 10, 2026.

Chris Loescher, Computer Support Specialist. Start date, September 1, 2026.

#### 12.4.1. Personnel - 2026-2027 Contracts

2026-2027 Contracts offered and authorized by the Chief Administrator for the following staff:

- Abel (Josh) Arias, Title IC Education Program Service Provider
  - Alexis Hitz, District Technology Coordinator
  - Angie Arndt, Department Secretary
  - Angie Olson, Print Shop Personnel
  - Brian Jarecki, Custodian/Maintenance
  - Carolyn Koch, Bookkeeper
  - Chris Chvala, Computer Support Specialist
  - Cindy Wieser, Department Secretary
  - Devon Gronenthal, District Technology Coordinator
  - Elizabeth Lawrence, Department Secretary
  - Emma Moore, District Technology Coordinator
  - Janet Ciboron, Print Shop Personnel
  - Jason Trotter, District Technology Coordinator
  - Jeremiah Salyard, District Technology Coordinator
  - Linda Shefcyk, Business Manager
  - Maria Rodriguez-Borquez, Title IC Education Program Recruiter
  - Maria Pierce, Print Shop Personnel
  - Mayra Garcia, Department Secretary
  - Morgan Morsett, Executive Secretary
  - Susan Olmer, Bookkeeper
  - Traci Siem, Receptionist/Administrative Secretary
  - Yaribey Rodriguez, Title IC Education Program Service Provider
- The Title IC Education Department will hire school tutors throughout the year as necessary as classified following the Title IC Education Grant regulations
- Administrator Ostmeyer reviewed the staff members who have signed contracts for the 2026-2027 contract year.

Board member Amy Blaser asked when contracts are supposed to be signed. Administrator Ostmeyer stated contracts must be signed by August 1st to be presented in the August board meeting. Board member Bob Arp asked about classified personnel status and notification of resignations. Administrator Ostmeyer shared the process that the board is notified about new and renewed contracts for classified employees, and the board is also notified when resignations are submitted. If a resignation is not submitted, it is not brought to the board.

- 12.5. Legislative Update  
During this item, the Administrator will provide a Legislative Update to members of the Board.  
The Directors had their retreat at the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce building. They visited with the President, Dawson Brunswick who is the senator candidate for the Columbus area and he is familiar with ESU's.

13. **Committee Reports**

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

**Committee Recommendation:**

Committee Chair Dawn Lindsley reported the committee went through each category of the budget and talked through changes. The majority of the changes came from salary increases, additional staff, along with increases in the buildings & grounds budget. The budget committee will meet one more time before the budget is approved.

- 13.2. Buildings and Grounds Committee Report  
The Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairperson will provide an update.

**Committee Recommendation:** Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to approve the Fee Proposal and Agreement to Perform Professional Services for a Site Study, Variance and Possible Expansion for the ESU 7 Campus from RVW, Inc.

Discuss, consider and take any action necessary to approve the Fee Proposal and Agreement to Perform Professional Services for a Site Study, Variance and Possible Expansion for the ESU 7 Campus from RVW, Inc Passed with a motion by Jack Young and a second by Bob Arp.

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Beth Kabes:       | Absent |
| Bob Arp:          | Yea    |
| Joyce Baumert:    | Yea    |
| Amy Blaser:       | Yea    |
| Marni Danhauer:   | Yea    |
| April Emeigh:     | Yea    |
| Don Graff:        | Yea    |
| Clark Lehr:       | Yea    |
| Dawn Lindsley:    | Yea    |
| Richard Stephens: | Yea    |
| Jack Young:       | Yea    |

Yea: 10, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Committee Chair Jack Young updated that the Buildings & Grounds Committee has met monthly since May. The staff completed a 'wants and needs' survey.

Results indicated more office space, conference room space, bigger and more classroom sizes, parking and storage. After talking with Andy Woehrer with the City of Columbus, purchasing the land to the south of the South Building would not benefit ESU 7 due to various easements, set back rules and zoning difficulties. Any encouraged ESU 7 to apply for a variance with the city to exceed the green space ratio. If ESU 7 is granted a variance, building can take place on grassy area around campus. Attached is a proposal from RVW Inc. to Perform Professional Services for a Site Study, Variance and Possible Expansion for the ESU 7 Campus.

Board Member Bob Arp clarified that ESU 7 is asking for a variance for our existing campus. This variance doesn't mean that we have to build anything, but it means we have the opportunity to. Administrator Ostmeyer also added that we will be requesting the maximum amount. As of right now, we can only renovate within the existing ESU 7 buildings, but we cannot cover anymore of our ground/grassy area without the variance. If the city says no to the variance, then we will explore other options. If the city says yes, then it opens up the possibilities.

13.3. Negotiations Committee Report

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:**

Committee Chair Don Graff met with Brandy Rose, the ESUEA Representative. The two items that will be negotiated are salary and insurance. In September, the ESUEA typically provides a letter to be recognized as the official bargaining agent, then negotiation meetings for the 2027-2028 year will start in October.

13.4. 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.
- **September:** Full Board is provided a paper copy of the evaluation questions.
- **October:** Administrator sends digital evaluation and evaluation resources to the Evaluation Committee Chair in the first week of October. The chair then forwards on to the full Board for completion by the October Board Meeting. The Board will send their completed evaluation tool to the Evaluation Committee prior to the October Board Meeting. The Administrator completes the Evaluation Tool as a self-assessment and sends it to the Evaluation Committee Chair on or before October 31.
- **November:** Committee Chair will send the completed Administrator self-assessment to the full Board after November 1. The Evaluation Committee compiles results of the full Board's completed evaluations prior to the November Board Meeting.

- **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:**

Committee Chair Marni Danhauer and Administrator Ostmeyer will meet on August 24th to begin the evaluation process as per the evaluation timeline.

14. Conference Report  
Conference Attendees will report on their learnings.

15. Board Announcements

- 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
    - Tuesday, August 25 - Nebraska City
    - Wednesday, August 26 - South Sioux City
      - Registration Deadline: August 19
    - Tuesday, September 1 - Omaha
    - Wednesday, September 2 - North Platte
      - Registration Deadline: August 26
    - Wednesday, September 9 - York
      - Registration Deadline: September 2
    - Wednesday, September 23 - Fremont
      - Registration Deadline: September 17
      - Registered: Clark Lehr, Dawn Lindsley
  - State Education Conference
    - November 18-20, 2026 - Omaha
      - Registration opens in September
  - 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

Board President Dawn Lindsley reported that one person from the ESU 7 board has the ability to run for the NASB board of directors position. This will be the first time ESUs can cast a vote in a NASB meeting.

16. Adjournment  
Board President Dawn Lindsley adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.