EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT NO 16
314 WEST FIRST STREET
OGALLALA NE 69153-0915
(308) 284-8481
JAMES McGOWN, ADMINISTRATOR

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**Ogallala Central Office** **Tuesday, September 15, 2026**
**Regular Board Meeting** **1:00 PM CT**

Legal Notice of the REGULAR BOARD MEETING was published in the Keith County News, North Platte Telegraph and on the Educational Service Unit 16 web page, www.esu16.org.

The meeting was opened at 12:30 p.m. CT by Robert Jones, President of the Board of Educational Service Unit 16. Roll Call was taken and those present were:

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| Julie Boettcher (District 1): | Present |
| Bill Eakins (District 10): | Present |
| John Frates (District 11): | Present |
| Eileen Ohm (District 12): | Present |
| Jason Axthelm (District 2): | Present |
| Bill McGahan (District 3): | Absent |
| Robert Jones (District 4): | Present |
| Cheryl Bales (District 5): | Absent |
| Grant Creager (District 6): | Present |
| Sherry Polk (District 7): | Present |
| Margaret "Sooky" Marks (District 8): | Absent |
| Judy Seger (District 9): | Present |

1) This agenda contains a list of subjects known at the time of its distribution on 9/8/2026. A copy of the agenda reflecting any changes will be available for public inspection during normal business hours in the office of the Administrator of Educational Service Unit 16. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda will not be enlarged later than 24 hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting. The public meetings law (84-1410) allows boards to go into executive session "if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the protection of needless injury to the reputation of an individual." Individuals attending this meeting are invited to make comments during the "Recognition of Visitors" time allowed under agenda item 4. Time for each speaker should not exceed 5 minutes.
2) Call to Order
   2)a Pledge of Allegiance
   2)b Roll Call
   2)c Board Meeting Attendance
   A motion was made by John Frates (District 11) and Eileen Ohm (District 12) to record, in the minutes, an excused absence for Bill McGahan, Cheryl Bales & Sooky Marks. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 9, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
   2)d Notification of Open Meetings Law Posting and Recognition of Recordings
   2)e Legal Notice of Regular Board Meeting
3) Consent Agenda:

3)a Approval of Agenda *(Motion and second, Board President reads Conflict of Interest Statement)*
Approval of Minutes of the prior month Board Meeting
Approval of Excess Federal Rates Report
Approval of Claims and Financial Report
Authorize Payment of Claims per Article III, Section 5A
A motion was made by Judy Seger (District 9) and Bill Eakins (District 10) to approve the Consent Agenda including: the Minutes of the August Board Meeting as written and sent to Board Members; the Excess of Federal Rates Report; Financial Reports for August, the claims for August, and the mid month claims. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 9, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.

4) Treasurer's Report
A motion was made by Grant Creager (District 6) and Eileen Ohm (District 12) to approve the August 2026 treasurer's report including the check register as presented by Amber Lutz. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 9, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
5) Recognition of Visitors
6) Action Items
6)a Adjourn Budget Hearing
A motion was made by John Frates (District 11) and Judy Seger (District 9) to adjourn the 2026-2027 Budget Hearing at 1:08 p.m. CT. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 9, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
6)b Action on Adoption of the General Fund Budget
A motion was made by Judy Seger (District 9) and Jason Axthelm (District 2) to approve the 2026-2027 Budget of Expenditures in the amount of $12,236,628. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 9, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
6)c Adjourn Tax Request Hearing
A motion was made by Grant Creager (District 6) and John Frates (District 11) to adjourn the 2026-2027 Tax Request Hearing at 1:11 p.m. CT. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 9, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
6)d Resolution Setting Final Tax Request for July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
A motion was made by Robert Jones (District 4) and Grant Creager (District 6) to approve a Resolution for the Tax Request in the amount of $2,199,822.42 with a levy of $.015000 for July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 9, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
6)e Consider Approval of Items for Negotiations
A motion was made by Robert Jones (District 4) and Sherry Polk (District 7) to accept base salary, health insurance and adding steps to the certified salary schedule as considerations for negotiations for the 2026-27 contract year. Roll Call Vote: Yea: 9, Nay: 0 Motion Carried.
7) Discussion Items
7)a Nebraska Educational Service Unit Boards Association (NESUBA) Agenda
8) Director Reports
8)a Special Services: Jennifer Pohlson
8)b Teaching & Learning: Alison Smith
8)c Network Operations: Chad DeWester
9) Administrative Reports
9)a Board Reports
9)b Administrator's Report
9)c Out of Unit Travel and Mileage Reports
10) Adjourn

**Michelle Walker**
Recording Secretary

Signature of Board Officers

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Board President

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Board Secretary