

State Board of Education Work Session and Business Meeting.

Thursday-Friday January 8-9, 2026

Nebraska Department of Education Office Building, State Board Room, 500 S 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

[Link to Agenda and Attachments](#)

[Link to Video of Meeting](#) January 9, 2026

Publicized notice of the business meeting was given by posting notice on the Department's website and emailed to news media requesting notification, which gave the date, time, and location of the meeting.

STATE BOARD WORK SESSION, Thursday, January 9, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Tegtmeier called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Deborah Neary	Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Kirk Penner
Kristin Christensen	Lisa Schonhoff	Liz Renner
Maggie Douglas	Sherry Jones	

Commissioner Maher was also in attendance.

1.2. President Tegtmeier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. President Tegtmeier announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. BUSINESS

2.1. 2025 ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

2.1.A. Election Processes and Procedures

Commissioner Maher presided over the election of officers pursuant to Board Bylaw 2 Board Officers. Officers elected at the meeting will serve a one-year term unless there is a motion for officers to serve a two-year term.

Commissioner Maher appointed Ami Huff and Lora Sypal as Tellers to disseminate and count the ballots.

2.1.B. Election of Board President

Commissioner Maher opened nominations for President.

Deborah Neary nominated Elizabeth Tegtmeier.

There being no further nominations, Commissioner Maher closed the nominations.

Vote 1:

Reporting Teller, Ami Huff, read the vote results:

- 8 votes were cast
- 5 votes were necessary for election
- 8 votes for Elizabeth Tegtmeier

The tally was delivered to Commissioner Maher, who announced the result that Elizabeth Tegtmeier was elected President.

2.1.C. Election of Board Vice President

Commissioner Maher opened nominations for Vice President.

Sherry Jones nominated Liz Renner.

There being no further nominations, Commissioner Maher closed the nominations.

Vote 1:

Reporting Teller, Ami Huff, read the vote results:

- 8 votes were cast
- 5 votes were necessary for election
- 8 votes for Liz Renner

The tally was delivered to Commissioner Maher, who announced the result that Liz Renner was elected Vice President.

2.2. Potential Closed Session

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Kristin Christensen to go into Closed Session for the Protection of the Public Interest to Discuss Pending Litigation.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

At 4:16 p.m. the Board moved into Closed Session for the Protection of Public Interest to Discuss Pending Litigation.

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Kristin Christen to adjourn Closed Session at 4:31 p.m.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

3. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

The State Board of Education will reconvene Friday, January 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Nebraska Department of Education Office Building for a regular business meeting at the Nebraska Department of Education Office Building, State Board Room, 500 S 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, January 9, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Elizabeth Tegtmeier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Deborah Neary

Elizabeth Tegtmeier

Kirk Penner

Kristin Christensen

Lisa Schonhoff

Maggie Douglas

Sherry Jones

Commissioner Maher was also in attendance.

Absent: Liz Renner

1.2. President Tegtmeier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3. President Tegtmeier announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

(NONE)

3. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

3.1. Agenda Overview and Consent Agenda Process

3.1.A. Commissioner Maher's recommendation and items to be removed from consent agenda

Agenda Item 6.3.A. was requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Maher delivered the Commissioner's report.

3.2. Nebraska Teacher of the Year

NDE Representative, David Jespersen, introduced Sarah Hardin, 2026 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, High School Science Teacher, Mullen, Nebraska, who provided her report.

3.3. Nebraska Leads Literacy and CLSD Update

NDE Representative, Jane Stavem, Jamie Cook, and Victoria Katzberg, spoke about the Nebraska Leads Literacy and provided an update on the CLSD.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There was no President's report.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

5.1. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

5.2. Written Public Comment

There was no Written Public Comment submitted.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Deborah Neary to approve the Consent Agenda without agenda item 6.3.A.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Absent
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1. **Executive Committee** – Elizabeth Tegtmeier, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.2. **Budget and Finance Committee** – Kristin Christensen, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.2.A. Monthly Board Travel Expense Report

There was no further discussion on the item.

7.2.B. Action Item: Contract for Federal IDEA and Early Childhood Data Application Development

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to contract for Federal IDEA and Early Childhood Data Application Development.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Absent
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.C. Action Item: Contract for Nebraska Inclusive Systems Capacity Project

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to authorize the Commissioner to contract for Nebraska Inclusive Systems Capacity Project.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Absent
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.D. Action Item: Authorize the Commissioner to Approve the 2025-26 Trust Fund Budget for the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI)

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Lisa Schonhoff to authorize the Commissioner to Approve the 2025-26 Trust Fund Budget for the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI).

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Absent
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3. **Planning and Evaluation Committee Report** – Lisa Schonhoff, Chair, reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.3.A. Action Item: Community Achievement Plan (CAP) of the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

NDE Representative, Shirley Vargas and Bryce Wilson, answered questions with regard to funding for the Learning Community.

The Committee recommends no action on this item.

7.4. **Rules and Regulations Committee** – Maggie Douglas, Chair reported on the meeting of the Committee.

7.4.A. Report on Rules

The report on rules is linked through Sparq in Board Agenda item 7.4.A.

7.4.B. Action Item: Proposed Revision of Rule 13 (92 NAC 13) Regulations and Procedures for Exempting Schools for Which Parents Elect Not to Meet Legal Requirements for School Approval and Accreditation

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Kristin Christensen to Adopt Proposed Revision of Rule 13 (92 NAC 13) Regulations and Procedures for Exempting Schools for Which Parents Elect Not to Meet Legal Requirements for School Approval and Accreditation.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Absent
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

7.4.C. Action Item: Proposed Revision of Rule 51 (92 NAC 51) Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Lisa Schonhoff to Adopt Proposed Revision Of Rule 51 (92 NAC 51) Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Liz Renner	Absent
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

6.3.A. Action Item: Amend Contract to Support Teams for Improvement to Increase Math and Literacy Outcomes

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Amend the Contract to Support Teams for Improvement to Increase Math and Literacy Outcomes.

NDE Representative, Shirley Vargas, provided additional information for the amending of the contract.

Deborah Neary	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	No
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	No
Liz Renner	Absent
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

The motion passed.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

Information items and reports are linked through Sparq under Board Agenda item 9.

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

(NONE)

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

The next meetings of the State Board of Education are scheduled for February 5-6, 2026, in Lincoln, Nebraska.