State Board of Education Work Session and Business Meeting.

Thursday-Friday March 5-6, 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 March 6, 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, March 5, 2026, 12:45 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Tegtmeier called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Kristin Christensen	Lisa Schonhoff
Liz Renner	Maggie Douglas	Sherry Jones

Commissioner Maher was also in attendance.

Absent: Deborah Neary and Kirk Penner

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. Chronic Absenteeism

NDE Representative, Shirley Vargas, presented on Chronic Absenteeism.

3. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

The State Board of Education will reconvene Friday, March 6, 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, March 6, 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 (arrived 9:18 a.m.)
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. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

2.1. Special Presentation and Resolution to Proclaim April 2026 as the Month of the Military Child and April 15, 2026, as "Purple Up! For Military Kids Day"

NDE Representative, Derek Ippensen, introduced Offutt Air Force Base 55th Wing Commander Colonel Aaron Gray and 55th Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant Andrew Small who provided information on Offutt Air Force Base, Purple Star Schools, and the importance of the resources provided for military children.

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Proclaim April 2026 as the Month of the Military Child and April 15, 2026, as "Purple Up! For Military Kids Day" and to Adopt the Resolution.

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

The motion passed.

President Tegtmeier called for a recess at 9:17 a.m. The meeting resumed at 9:24 a.m.

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

No items were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Maher delivered the Commissioner's report.

Kirk Penner returned at 9:28 a.m.

3.2. Update on the Teacher of the Year Program

NDE Representative, David Jespersen, provided an update on the Teacher of the Year Program.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There was no President's report.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

5.1. Public Comment

The following individuals spoke in public comment: James McGown and Linda Vermooten.

5.2. Written Public Comment

There was no Written Public Comment submitted.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Liz Renner to approve the Consent Agenda.

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.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

7.1.A. Action Item: Board Position on LB1050, Amend the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act to Limit Advancement to Grade Four

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Liz Renner that the State Board of Education Oppose LB1050 (Amend the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act to Limit Advancement to Grade Four)

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

The motion is lost.

7.1.B. Action Item: Board Position on LB1224, Prohibit Children from Transferring to an Exempt School During Certain Child Abuse or Neglect Investigations and Prohibit Persons Convicted of Certain Crimes from Monitoring or Providing Instruction at Such Schools

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Kristin Christensen that the State Board of Education Support LB1224 as Amended by AM 2228 (Prohibit Children from Transferring to an Exempt School During Certain Child Abuse or Neglect Investigations and Prohibit Persons Convicted of Certain Crimes from Monitoring or Providing Instruction at Such Schools)

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

The motion is lost.

7.1.C. Discussion Item: Revisions to the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) Organizational Policies

There was no further discussion on the item.

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 a Comprehensive English Language Proficiency Assessment

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to contract for a Comprehensive English Language Proficiency Assessment.

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.

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

7.3.A. Discussion Item: Approve Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from Ord Public Schools

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.3.B. Discussion Item: Approval of Hyannis Public Schools Waiver Request

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.3.C. Discussion Item: Approval of Plan(s) of Corrections for Rule 10, 14, and 18 School Systems and Interim Program Schools

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.3.D. Discussion Item: Approval of Nonpublic Schools for the 2026-2027 School Year

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.3.E. Discussion Item: Approval of Interim-Program Schools for 2026-2027 School Year

There was no further discussion on this item.

7.3.F. Discussion Item: Priority School Designation

There was no further discussion 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: Adopt Proposed Revision of Rule 24 (92 NAC 24) Regulations for Certification Endorsements

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Liz Renner to Adopt Proposed Revisions to Rule 24 (92 NAC 24) Regulations for Certification Endorsements.

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.

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

8.1. Action Item: Accept Preschool Development Grant Funds and Subcontract to Fulfill Grant Requirements

Motion made at the February Board Meeting to Accept Preschool Development Grant Funds and Subcontract to Fulfill Grant Requirements was the pending motion on the floor.

NDE Representatives, Melody Hobson and Dr. Jane Stavem, provided additional information on the partnership and confidentiality of data.

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

The motion is lost.

8.2. Action Item: Accept Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Funds and Subcontract to Fulfill Grant Requirements

NDE Representative, Amy Rhone, provided additional information of what school psychologists need to provide for students.

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Accept Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Funds and Subcontract to Fulfill Grant Requirements.

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

The motion is lost.

8.3. Action Item: Accept School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Funds and Subcontract to Fulfill Grant Requirements

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Liz Renner to Accept Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Funds and Subcontract to Fulfill Grant Requirements.

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

The motion is lost.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS

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

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Maggie Douglas and Lisa Schonhoff will be visiting the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI) on March 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. and all Board Members are welcome to attend.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

The next meetings of the State Board of Education are scheduled for May 7-8, 2026, in Bellevue, Nebraska.