

State Board of Education Business Meeting.

Thursday August 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](#) August 7, 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 OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION, Thursday, August 6, 2026, 2:15 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – President Elizabeth Tegtmeier called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following attendance:

Deborah Neary	Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Kirk Penner (left 2:48 pm)
Kristin Christensen	Lisa Schonhoff	Liz Renner
Maggie Douglas	Sherry Jones (absent)	

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. Governor Memo Re: Restraining Spending in State Government (Dated July 8, 2026)

NDE Representatives, Commissioner Maher, Bryce Wilson, and Grant Norgaard, presented on the Governor's Memo regarding restraining spending in state government.

2.2. Strategic Plan Update

NDE Representative, Ryan Foor, presented an update on the strategic plan.

2.3. Information on NDE Artificial Intelligence (AI) Efforts, Part 2

NDE Representatives, Chris Wlaschin, Katie Graham. and Dorann Avey, presented information on NDE Artificial Intelligence (AI) efforts, part 2.

2.4. Information on LB937, Establish a Cybersecurity Program for K-12 Schools and ESU's

NDE Representative, Chris Wlaschin, presented information on LB937, to establish a cybersecurity program for K-12 schools and ESU's.

3. ADJOURNMENT President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 3:11 p.m. The State Board of Education will reconvene Friday, August 7, 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 Business Meeting.

Friday August 7, 2026

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, Friday, August 7, 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 9:27 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. Nebraska Teacher of the Year Quarterly Report

Sarah Hardin, 2026 Nebraska Teacher of the Year, High School Science Teacher at Mullen High School, Mullen, Nebraska provided her quarterly report.

2.2. Annual Presentation by the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE)

Susan Stake President of the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education provided an annual presentation by the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE).

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 agenda items were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Maher delivered the Commissioner's report.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Tegtmeier provided a brief report and recognized NDE staff for planning events NDE provides, such as Administrator's Days.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

5.1. Public Comment

The following individuals spoke in public comment: Hope Hibler, Brooke Crumb, and DerNecia Phillips.

5.2. Written Public Comment

There was one Written Public Comment submitted.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to adopt the Consent Agenda.

Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Deborah Neary	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	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. Discussion Item: Approve Legislative Priorities.

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 Required Compliance and Monitoring of the USDA Child Nutrition Programs

NDE Representative, Zainab Rida, provided additional information regarding the amount of the contract and monitoring visits per USDA requirements.

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Lisa Schonhoff to contract for required compliance and monitoring of the USDA child nutrition programs.

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

The motion passed.

7.2.C. Action Item: Accept the 2025 Single Audit Report

NDE Representative, Bryce Wilson, provided additional information regarding compliance in the audit report.

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Lisa Schonhoff to accept the 2025 Single Audit Report.

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

The motion passed.

7.2.D. Discussion Item: Contract for Nebraska Career Connections 2026-2027 Statewide License

NDE Representative, Katie Graham, provided additional information regarding the how the statewide license information will be shared for Nebraska Career Connections.

7.2.E. Discussion Item: Approve Comprehensive English Language Proficiency Assessment Process

There was no further discussion on the item.

7.2.F. Discussion Item: Approve Strategic Initiatives Grant Opportunities

There was no further discussion on the item.

7.2.G. Discussion Item: 2027-2029 Biennial Budget Request

There was no further discussion on the item.

President Tegtmeier called for a break at 9:57 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:10 a.m.

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

7.3.A. Action Item: Approval of Educator Preparation Programs for 2026-2027

NDE Representatives, Brad Dirksen and Jim Kent, provided additional information regarding educator preparation programs, yearly cycle and compliance with literacy, state statute, and Rule 20.

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Liz Renner to Approve Educator Preparation Programs for 2026-2027.

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

The motion passed.

7.3.B. Action Item: Conditional Approval of New Nonpublic Rule 14 School System, Sandhill Cranes Montessori

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Maggie Douglas to authorize conditional approval of new nonpublic Rule 14 school system, Sandhill Cranes Montessori.

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

The motion passed.

7.3.C. Action Item: Conditional Approval of New Nonpublic Rule 14 School System, Adult Education Center

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Liz Renner to authorize conditional approval of new nonpublic Rule 14 school system, Adult Education Center.

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

The motion passed.

7.3.D. Action Item: Conditional Approval of New Nonpublic Rule 14 School System, Identity Preparatory Academy

Motion by Deborah Neary, second by Kristin Christensen to authorize conditional approval of new nonpublic Rule 14 school system, Identity Preparatory Academy.

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Lisa Schonhoff to postpone the conditional approval of new nonpublic Rule 14 school system, Identity Preparatory Academy until Tuesday, August 11 at 1:00 p.m.

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

The motion passed.

The Commissioner will establish a full board meeting, electronic meeting, Tuesday August 11 at 1:00 p.m. and the public will have access to the meeting by the State Board of Education website.

7.3.E. Discussion Item: Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility Special Purpose Agreement Proposal

There was no further discussion on the item.

7.3.F. 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 the item.

7.3.G. Discussion Item: Approve Priority School Progress Plans

7.3.H. Discussion Item: Social Studies Content Standards Review

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 6 (92 NAC 6) Regulations and Standards for Uniform Sharing of Student Data, Records and Information

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Kristin Christensen to adopt proposed revisions of Rule 6 (92 NAC 6) Regulations and Standards for Uniform Sharing of Student Data, Records and Information.

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

The motion passed.

7.4.C. Action Item: Proposed Revisions of Rule 59 (92 NAC 59) Regulations for School Health and Safety

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Kristin Christensen to adopt Rule 59 (92 NAC 59) Regulations for School Health and Safety.

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

The motion passed.

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

(NONE)

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 attended Administrators' Days and shared highlights from the conference.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

The next meetings of the State Board of Education are scheduled for September 3-4, 2026, in Lincoln, Nebraska.