State Board of Education Business Meeting.
Friday May 8, 2026
Bellevue Public Schools Welcome Center, Board of Education Room 100, 2600 Arboretum Drive, Bellevue, NE 68005
Link to Agenda and Attachments
Link to Video of Meeting May 8, 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 MEETING, Friday, May 8, 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 (absent)	Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Kirk Penner (arrived 9:05 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. Apprenticeship Program

Brad Dirksen, NDE staff member; Sarah Dohmen, Westside Community Schools; and Rachael Grange, Papillion LaVista Community schools provided information on Apprenticeship Program.

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 items 6.3.B. and 6.7.A. were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Maher delivered the Commissioner's report.

3.2. Nebraska Teacher of the Year Quarterly Report

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. Information on NDE Artificial Intelligence (AI) Efforts

Chris Wlaschin and Commissioner Maher provided information on NDE Artificial Intelligence (AI) Efforts.

4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Tegtmeier provided a brief report and recognized educators for Teacher Appreciation week.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

5.1. Public Comment

The following individuals spoke in public comment: Jared Robertson.

5.2. Written Public Comment

There was no Written Public Comment submitted.

The board took a recess at 10:09 a.m. and reconvened at 10:22 a.m.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Liz Renner, second by Maggie Douglas to adopt the Consent Agenda with the exception of 6.3.B and 6.7A.

Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Deborah Neary	Absent
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. Action Item: Revisions to the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) Organizational Policies

Motion by Liz Renner, second by Kristin Christensen to approve revisions to the NCTE Organizational Policies.

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

The motion passed.

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: Allocation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Grant Funds

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Allocate 21st CCLC Grant Funds.

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

The motion passed.

7.2.C. Action Item: Rural Health Transformation Project Funds

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Approve the Rural Health Transformation Project funds.

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

The motion passed.

7.2.D. Action Item: Contract for Safe2HealpNE Hotline

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Liz Renner to Contract for the Safe2HelpNE Hotline.

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

The motion passed.

7.2.E. Action Item: Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program Funding

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Lisa Schonhoff to Approve Nebraska Teacher Apprenticeship Program Funding.

Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Deborah Neary	Absent
Kristin Christensen	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Sherry Jones	Yes

Maggie Douglas	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes

The motion passed.

7.2.F. Action Item: Approve New and Expansion Early Childhood Grants

NDE Representative, Amy Rhone, provided additional information on special education in early childhood programs.

Motion by Kristin, Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Approve New and Expansion Early Childhood Grants.

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

The motion passed.

7.2.G. Action Item: Contract for Professional Learning for Leaders Grounded in the Science of Reading

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Contract for Professional Learning for Leaders Grounded in the Science of Reading.

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

The motion passed.

7.2.H. Action Item: Contract for the Career and Technical Education State Model Programs of Study and Standards Revision Project

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Contract for the Career and Technical Education State Model Programs of Study and Standards Revision Project.

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

The motion passed.

7.2.I. Action Item: Accept the 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) Audit Report

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Accept the 2025 ACFR Audit Report.

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

The motion passed.

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

NDE Representative, Allyson DenBeste provided a timeline for the social studies standards content standards information item from committee report.

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

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Maggie Douglas to Approve Rule 11 Teacher Waiver Request from Ord Public Schools.

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

The motion passed.

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

Motion by Liz Renner, second by Maggie Douglas to Approve Hyannis Public Schools Waiver Request.

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

The motion passed.

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

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Lisa Schonhoff to Approve Plan(s) of Corrections for Rule 10, 14, and 18 School Systems and Interim Program Schools.

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

The motion passed.

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

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to Approve Nonpublic Schools for the 2026-2027 School Year.

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

The motion passed.

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

Motion by Sherry Jones, second by Maggie Douglas to Approve Interim-Program Schools for 2026-2027 School Year.

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

The motion passed.

7.3.F. Action Item: Priority School Designation

Motion by Maggie Douglas, second by Kristin Christensen to designate Omaha Northwest High School, Bayard Secondary School, and Scribner/Snyder Secondary School as Priority Schools.

Kristin Christensen	Yes
Deborah Neary	Absent

Sherry Jones	Yes
Liz Renner	Yes
Maggie Douglas	Yes
Lisa Schonhoff	Yes
Elizabeth Tegtmeier	Yes
Kirk Penner	Yes

The motion passed.

7.3.G. Discussion Item: Accreditation of Public and Non-Public Rule 10 School Systems for 2026-2027

7.3.H. Discussion Item: Accreditation of Nebraska Educational Service Units for 2026-2027

NDE Representative, Brad Dirksen, provided additional information regarding jurisdiction for accreditation of the Nebraska Educational Service Units. Historical data and information regarding regulations were provided.

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 Revisions of Rule 11 (92 NAC 11), Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants

Motion by Kirk Penner, second by Liz Renner to Adopt Proposed Revisions of Rule 11 (92 NAC 11), Regulations for the Approval of Prekindergarten Programs Established by School Boards or Educational Service Units and for the Issuance of Early Childhood Education Grants.

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

The motion passed.

8. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

6.3.B. Consent Item: Nebraska Improvement Grant Projects

NDE Representative, Lane Carr, provided additional information regarding the Nebraska Improvement Grants projects and questions from board members regarding the agenda item.

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to authorize the Commissioner to contract for the Nebraska Improvement Grant Projects

Deborah Neary	Absent

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

The motion passed.

6.7.A. Consent Item: Award Funding from the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant to the Identified Subaward Grantees

NDE Representative, Jamie Cook, provided additional information regarding years of funding for tiers 1, 2, and 3 regarding the CLSD regarding the agenda item.

NDE Representative, Allyson DenBeste, provided additional information regarding the CLSD agenda item and questions from board members.

Motion by Kristin Christensen, second by Maggie Douglas to authorize the Commissioner to Award Funding from the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant to the Identified Subaward Grantees

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

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

Kristin Christensen attended NASB Federal Advocacy group in Washington DC and shared highlights from the meeting. Maggie Douglas attended the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI) prom in Nebraska City.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

The next meetings of the State Board of Education are scheduled for June 4-5, 2026, in Lincoln, Nebraska.