

NORTH CENTRAL ESD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 3, 2025

The North Central ESD Board of Directors met in regular session in the NCESD Conference Room on Thursday, July 3, 2025.

Attending:

P – Jeff Schott
P – Amy Derby
A – Jim Doherty
P – Sarah Rucker
A – Miesha Bennett
P – Kara Lanthorn
P – Becky Brandenburg

P – Penny Fender, Superintendent
P – Delaney Watkins, Board Secretary
P – Mercedes Herrea, Business Manager
P – Lynn Cowdrey, Education & Innovation
P – Bob Dais, HR Director
P – Kurt Evans, Assistant Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER:

Current Board Chair Jeff Schott called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

ADDITIONS/REVISIONS

There were the following additions- 10.3 Consider Approval of Resolution 2526-01 and 10.4 Consider Approval of Out of State Travel Request.

There was the following revision- 10.01- Depositories of District Funds (Bank of Eastern Oregon) was revised to Depositories of District Funds (Bank of Eastern Oregon & LGIP)

SWEARING IN OF NEW DIRECTORS

Prior to the swearing in of the new directors, introductions were made.

Kara Lanthorn and Becky Brandenburg were sworn in to serve on the Board of Directors for North Central ESD.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026

There was discussion on the election of officers for 2025-2026.

Motion by Sarah, seconded by Amy, to elect Jeff Schott as Board Chair for 2025-2026. *The motion passed unanimously.*

VOTING:

- Jeff Schott: Yes
- Amy Derby: Yes
- Sarah Rucker: Yes
- Kara Lanthorn: Yes
- Becky Brandenburg: Yes

Motion by Amy, seconded by Sarah, to elect Miesha Bennett as Board Vice Chair. *The motion passed unanimously.*

VOTING:

- Jeff Schott: Yes
- Amy Derby: Yes
- Sarah Rucker: Yes
- Kara Lanthorn: Yes
- Becky Brandenburg: Yes

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE:

There was none to present.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes and Fiscal Receipts

- The Fiscal Receipts and the June 5, 2025 regular board meeting minutes were distributed for review via email on Thursday, June 26, 2025.

Motion by Sarah, seconded by Amy, to approve 6.1 and 6.2 *The motion passed unanimously.*

VOTING:

- Jeff Schott: Yes
- Amy Derby: Yes
- Sarah Rucker: Yes
- Kara Lanthorn: Yes

- Becky Brandenburg: Yes

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Legislative Update

- Over 3,000 bills were filed this session, and our education lobbyists worked hard to track nearly 500 of those bills. Some of the highlights from the session were the ESD Technical Assistance was set to be cut by \$7.5 million but was reinstated as part of the Governor's Budget, HB3037 passed and reduces the administrative burden for small rural schools and creates a minimum floor, HB2009 and SB141 Accountability bills passed and will mainly affect school districts, and HB2007 and HB2047 Summer Learning bills which allocated funding for 25-26 and 26-27 to support summer learning programs. NCESD received \$20,000 and Spray School District received \$30,000 from these bills to provide summer learning. Other districts were eligible for funding but chose not to run a summer program.

General Updates

- Penny's term as president of OAESD has officially begun and she is working closely with the new Executive Director to get him oriented and prioritizing his time as the position transitions to half-time from full-time.
- We received notice from Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD, who houses our Infinite Visions software, that they will be moving to the cloud version of Visions, meaning North Central and our districts will also have to make the transition. This will cause a significant increase in costs, and the transition will start soon.
- Penny emailed districts yesterday to let them know that several federal funding streams were being withheld and what the impacts to their respective budgets will be.
- Governor Kotek has issued a bell-to-bell cellphone ban and districts will need to have a policy adopted by October 31, 2025 and implemented by January 1, 2026.

EDUCATION INNOVATION & IMPROVEMENT REPORT:

Report on Crisis Prevention Institute Training :

Penny presented the report from Maggie Lowe who attended the training as Lynn was unable to attend due to health reasons. Maggie attended the CPI training focused on children with autism. The training, facilitated by Nancy Little in Rochester, MN, was a valuable and immersive professional development experience. The small cohort of educators, a nurse, and a social worker fostered meaningful dialogue, with an expanded group of certified instructors joining on the final day. Pre-conference modules tailored to an autism-specific focus area provided a strong foundation.

Key takeaways included strategies to enhance safety, build trust with students, and promote a consistent, respectful approach to managing behavioral challenges. The training emphasized empathetic communication, de-escalation techniques, and alignment with legal and ethical guidelines, including Oregon's requirements for working with students at risk of unsafe behaviors.

PERSONNEL REPORT:

Personnel Update

- Penny presented the Personnel Report which included five new hires, three transfers, and 4 current open positions with NCESD. The current openings for all component districts were reviewed as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Approval of Housekeeping Items – Designate for 2025-2026

Motion by Amy, seconded by Sarah, to approve the Housekeeping Items for 2025-2026. *The motion passed unanimously.*

VOTING:

- Jeff Schott: Yes
- Amy Derby: Yes
- Sarah Rucker: Yes
- Kara Lanthorn: Yes
- Becky Brandenburg: Yes

Consider Approval of Signers for Bank of Eastern Oregon Accounts

Motion by Becky, seconded by Kara, to approve adding Penny Fender, Mercedes Herrera, Kurt Evans and Jeff Schott as signers and removing Kim Domenighini as a signer on the following Bank of Eastern Oregon accounts- Checking Account, 7640019340, and Money Market Account, 7640181363- effective July 3, 2025, and to have Kim Domenighini remain as administrator for Online Banking/Cash Manager for both listed accounts. *The motion passed unanimously.*

VOTING:

- Jeff Schott: Yes
- Amy Derby: Yes
- Sarah Rucker: Yes
- Kara Lanthorn: Yes
- Becky Brandenburg: Yes

Consider Approval of Resolution 2526-01; Unanticipated Revenue

Motion by Sarah, seconded by Amy, to approve Resolution 2526-01. *The motion passed unanimously.*

VOTING:

- Jeff Schott: Yes
- Amy Derby: Yes

- Sarah Rucker: Yes
- Kara Lanthorn: Yes
- Becky Brandenburg: Yes

Consider Approval of Out of State Travel Request

Motion by Amy, seconded by Sarah, to approve the Out of State Travel Request for Lynn Cowdrey.
The motion passed unanimously.

VOTING:

- Jeff Schott: Yes
- Amy Derby: Yes
- Sarah Rucker: Yes
- Kara Lanthorn: Yes
- Becky Brandenburg: Yes

NEXT MEETING

- NCESD Regular Board Meeting- September 4, 2025 6:00pm

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

Motion by Amy, seconded by Kara, to approve the adjournment of the meeting. *The motion passed unanimously.*

VOTING:

- Jeff Schott: Yes
- Amy Derby: Yes
- Sarah Rucker: Yes
- Kara Lanthorn: Yes
- Becky Brandenburg: Yes



JEFF SCHOTT, CHAIR



DELANEY WATKINS, BOARD SECRETARY