

STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 23, 2023

State Board of Public School Education members met in the CTE 15th Floor Conference Room at the State Capitol and via Teams on Monday, October 23, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Sonia Meehl at 1:00 p.m.

State Board Members in Attendance:

Chair Sonia Meehl
Vice Chairman Mike McHugh
Board Member Josh Johnson
Board Member Lyndsi Engstrom

State Board Member Present Virtually:

Board Member Eric Nelson

State Board Members Absent:

Superintendent Kirsten Baesler
Board Member Burdell Johnson

Others in Attendance: Allyson Hicks, Shauna Marchus, Robert LaFavor, Dr. Alyssa Martin, Debby Marshall, Aimee Erdman, Kevin Leier, Cody Heintz, Mrs. Heintz and two children.

Others Present Virtually: Donna Fishbeck, Karen Migler, Darlene Carpenter

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 25, 2023

Chair Sonia Meehl deferred the approval of the minutes until the November meeting to give board members more time to review the minutes.

- 2. North Dakota Center for Distance Education (NDCDE) Presentation - Dr. Alyssa Martin,**
Dr. Alyssa Martin, Director of NDCDE, shared a presentation titled *The Cost of Instruction and Enrollment Update*. Dr. Martin reviewed the history of the NDCDE, stating they began in 1935 and have been placed under many state agencies, but are now under the Department of Public Instruction as a 100% virtual school. She reviewed the NDCDE's new core operating principles, lists of online course curriculum publishers and vendors, infrastructure, staffing, student enrollment trends, differences between synchronous and asynchronous instruction, and the cost and revenue of the center.

- 3. Review the record, discuss, and take action on the annexation of property from the Drake Public School District No. 54 of McHenry County in North Dakota to the Rugby Public School District No. 5 of Pierce, Rolette, and Benson Counties in North Dakota. (Heintz Petition)**

Chair Sonia Meehl noted that two different annexation packets were submitted, one from Pierce County and one from McHenry County. She explained that the two county reorganization committees met together at the same place and same time, but there were two separate records and packets.

Chair Sonia Meehl and Vice Chair Mike McHugh read from both the annexation petitions.

Chair Sonia Meehl noted that on page three, section C2 of the Pierce County packet, regarding levies for bonded indebtedness to which the petitioned property will be subject to, was left blank, but the McHenry packet stated the petitioner would be responsible for all taxes for the Rugby School District and no taxes in the Drake School District if the annexation is approved. Chair Sonia Meehl stated that Pierce County was silent on this, so she asked attorney Allyson Hicks to clarify if the board was acting on the understanding that those two counties are allocating all the taxes to the new school district. Allyson Hicks stated that is a reasonable assumption.

Allyson Hicks read the current per-student valuation.

Review, discussion, and consideration of the information contained in the annexation packet included: difference in per student taxable valuation is reasonable, the petition passed both county boards, the minutes indicate that an increase in the tax levy of the new school district was discussed at the county hearings, the oldest child is already attending school in Rugby, petitioner took the least amount of land necessary, transportation would be provided for the petitioner's children, no one testified in opposition of the petition.

Allyson Hicks explained to the board that in the Pierce County packet, some factors were listed in the reasons for voting, but because those factors were not listed in the findings in section O, they would not transfer to the State Board findings. She explained that if the board wanted to include any of those factors, the board members would have to restate those factors.

Chair Sonia Meehl added the factors from the Pierce County packet stating that the petitioner has family in Rugby for storm weather safety for the children but does not have family in Drake. She also added that the school-age child lives in Rugby part-time with her mother.

Vice Chair Mike McHugh moved to approve the Heintz petition from Drake to Rugby based on the facts that have been presented, including:

- The petitioner took the least amount of land necessary.
- The oldest child is already attending school in Rugby.
- The increase in the mill levy was discussed.
- Petition passed both county boards.

Eric Nelson Seconded the motion to approve the Heintz petition. No Discussion.

NAME	VOTE (Yes/ No)
Board Member Lyndsi Engstrom	Yes
Board Member Josh Johnson	Yes
Vice Chair Mike McHugh	Yes
Board Member Eric Nelson	Yes

Chair Sonia Meehl	Yes
Superintendent Kirsten Baesler	Absent – Not Voting
Burdell Johnson	Absent – Not Voting

The motion passed 5-0. The Heintz petition was approved.

Chair Sonia Meehl asked the petitioner Cody Heintz to share his experience in this annexation process and how the State Board could make it better.

Cody Heintz answered that it was a mess. He stated that the McHenry County person (Darlene Carpenter) helped the family out a lot throughout this process.

Chair Sonia Meehl thanked Cody Heintz for persevering through the process and stated that his petition was very reasonable and well put together.

4. REA AUDIT PRESENTATION: North Central Education Cooperative (NCEC)

Debby Marshall, NCEC Director, shared a presentation to summarize the NCEC's highlights. She stated that NCEC includes sixteen school districts with twenty-three schools and other collaborating partners. She shared how the NCEC is addressing the K-12 Education Coordination Council's goals. She explained their staff structure and gave an overview of their fiscal audit, including revenues, expenditures, and funding. She also summarized their professional development activities and discussed the collaboration within their own REA and others. She gave an overview of the student achievement data, as well as curricular enrichment and enhancement opportunities that focus on meeting their smaller schools' needs.

Kevin Leier presented on the ND Educational HUB development and management. He explained that it is designed to be an online professional development hub for ND educators, paraprofessionals, support staff, and other school personnel. He stated the LMS system is a statewide entity that allows for low-cost or free professional development for all teachers and educators in the state.

Aimee Erdman presented about her position working with the CTE counselors in the region and the projects they have that provide connections for students even though they do not have a CTE center.

5. May 2024 Meeting Options

Chair Sonia Meehl stated that there will not be a meeting in December and that the May meeting needs to be adjusted due to falling on a holiday. The board decided to meet on May 20, 2024.

Discussion was held amongst board members about the REA presentations. Josh Johnson stated that the information presented in last month's and today's REA presentations was very beneficial, with good explanations of the REA operations and how they work. Lyndsi commented that there may be redundancies, and further discussion was held about how to avoid redundancies in presentations considering there is more collaboration between REAs.

Lyndsi Engstrom also asked about the frequency in which the K12- Coordination Council presents to the board since it is part of the State Board's responsibility per century code. Chair

Sonia Meehl suggested the K12 Council present at the November meeting to give an update. There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes taken and prepared by Shauna Marchus

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Sonia Meehl
Chairwoman

Kirsten Baesler
Executive Director & Secretary