

OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
VALTS BOARD OF EDUCATION

The regular meeting of the Valley Alternative Learning and Transitioning School Board of Education (VALTS BOE) was called to order by Alternative Education Director, Dr. Derek Peil on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 12:04 PM at the Harms Center, 2620 College Park, Scottsbluff, NE. Meeting notice was published in the Star-Herald on March 3, 2026.

Dr. Peil referenced the Nebraska Open Meetings Act as posted and noted that the Board reserves the right to rearrange the order of the agenda and to convene an executive session in accordance with §84-1410.

Present: Kay Anderson, Brad Helgerson, Doug Keener, John Maser, Joe Muhr, and Greg Trautman

Absent: None

Reorganization of the Board:

Dr. Peil called for nominations from the floor for the office of Board President. Maser nominated Helgerson. Hearing no further nominations, nominations were closed. A roll call vote was taken and Helgerson was elected Board President.

President Helgerson called for nominations from the floor for the office of Vice President. Keener nominated Maser. Hearing no further nominations, nominations were closed. A roll call vote was taken and Maser was elected Vice President.

President Helgerson called for nominations from the floor for the office of Secretary. Helgerson nominated Keener. Hearing no further nominations, nominations were closed. A roll call vote was taken and Keener was elected Secretary.

President Helgerson appointed Jodi Walker, ESU 13 Business Manager, as Treasurer.

President Helgerson appointed Jasmin Ramirez as Recording Secretary.

Mark Spencer, representing Mitchell Public Schools, was appointed as a new board member.

Oath of Office taken and signed by Mark Spencer.

Moved by Trautman, seconded by Keener, that the agenda be approved as listed. Aye: Anderson, Helgerson, Keener, Maser, Muhr, Spencer, Trautman. Nay: None. Absent:None. Motion passed.

Moved by Muhr, seconded by Maser, that the consent action items be approved as listed. Aye: Anderson, Helgerson, Keener, Maser, Muhr, Spencer, Trautman. Nay: None. Absent: None. Motion passed.

Public Forum: None

Reports:

- Student Report: Jaxon Hartwig was unable to attend the meeting.
- Teacher Report: Mrs. Karen Reason introduced herself to the Board and noted that she has taught at VALTS for 15 years. She thanked the Board for their service on the VALTS Board of Education. Mrs. Reason shared several 3D-printed items created by students and staff using the Glowforge laser printer purchased last school year. She explained how she incorporated the Glowforge into her Geometry lessons during Quarter 3 and answered Board questions regarding the cost of supplies and the time required to print items. For Quarter 4, Mrs. Reason will teach Statistics, incorporating a “zombie invasion” theme for some lessons. She also plans to co-teach several lessons with Mrs. Behnke, VALTS Science Teacher.
- Administrator’s Report: Dr. Derek Peil
 - Parent Teacher Conferences
 - Dr. Peil informed the Board that Parent-Teacher Conferences, held on March 10th from 2:00–6:00 PM, will be student-led, with an option for parents to participate via phone or Zoom. Students created a slideshow for the conferences. The conferences will follow a panel format, with all four teachers present for each session.
 - Enrollment Update
 - VALTS had two additional students during Quarter 3 outside of the Interlocal seat numbers, enrolled on an a la carte basis.
 - Six students graduated during Quarter 3, bringing the total number of VALTS graduates to over 800.
 - A press release is being prepared to announce that VALTS has reached over 800 graduates.
 - VALTS for Veterans Golf Ball Drop
 - On May 1st, 2026 VALTS will hold a fundraising event to raise money. Half of the proceeds will go to the VFW and the other half will go back into the program for scholarships and general items needed by VALTS students.
 - The scholarship process will include a rubric, written application, interview and board approval.
 - A press release is being prepared to announce the fundraising event, VALTS for Veterans Golf Ball Drop.
 - Dr. Peil acknowledged and thanked businesses that have sponsored so far including Riverstone Bank and Fireworks Unlimited.
 - January-Board Recognition Month

- Cost of \$7,500 for a year of unlimited access
 - Tumaini Way
 - Utilized by Panhandle Beginnings Day Treatment
 - Possible cost of 460 per workbook
 - Sidney Location Update
 - Sidney Public Schools is withdrawing from the program, therefore, will be removed from the Inter-Local Agreement.
 - Sidney VALTS Facilitator has resigned and the position is currently vacant.
 - WNCC Partnerships
 - Dr. Peil has been in contact with Greg Dart, President and Doug Mader, Workforce Training Director.
 - Discussion of dual credit
 - Discussion of GAP funding trade programs.
 - Tours of different programs will be scheduled for next school year.
 - Aulick Industries and Western Sugar Partnerships
 - Possibility of VALTS securing two seats in the programs offered by Aulick Industries and Western Sugar Partnership
- Future VALTS Board meeting dates
 - June 9th, 2026
 - September 8th, 2026
 - December 8th, 2026
 - Board Member Comments
 - Trautman inquired about possible staff member changes to accommodate program expansion ideas. He also inquired about whether or not the middle school program would prepare the students to transition back into their home district. He expressed appreciation for thinking of different ways to serve students.
 - Keener inquired about the set up of the VALTS Virtual option. He stated the virtual option would be beneficial to students in rural areas.
 - Helgerson expressed appreciation of the energy and hard work that has gone into brainstorming new program expansion ideas.
 - Anderson stated that the graduation ceremonies she has attended this school year have been very nice.

Business: None

Adjourn

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 1:21 PM