

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 Board President, Brad Helgerson on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 12:08 PM at the Harms Center, 2620 College Park, Scottsbluff, NE. Meeting notice was published in the Star-Herald on March 6, 2025.

Mr. Helgerson 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: Brad Helgerson, John Maser, Paul Pieper, Greg Trautman. Present via Video Conference: Brenda Smith

Absent: Tracy Wiese

Moved by Trautman, seconded by Maser, that absent Board member Wiese be excused. Aye: Helgerson, Pieper, Smith. Nay: None. Absent: Wiese. Motion passed.

Oath of Office taken and signed by Greg Trautman

Reorganization of the Board:

Mr. Peacock called for nominations from the floor for President. Pieper nominated Helgerson for President. Moved by Trautman, seconded by Maser that nominations cease. Aye: Helgerson, Pieper, Smith. Nay: None. Absent: Wiese. Motion passed.

President Helgerson called for nominations from the floor for Vice President. Pieper nominated Maser for Vice President. Moved by Helgerson, seconded by Trautman that nominations cease. Aye: Pieper, Maser, Smith. Nay: None. Absent: Wiese. Motion passed.

President Helgerson called for nominations from the floor for Secretary. Helgerson nominated Pieper for secretary. Moved by Trautman, seconded by Maser that nominations cease. Aye: Helgerson, Pieper, Smith. Nay: None. Absent: Wiese. Motion passed.

Moved by Helgerson, seconded by Pieper that Jodi Walker, ESU 13 Business Manager, be appointed as Treasurer. Aye: Maser, Trautman, Smith. Nay: None. Absent: Wiese. Motion passed.

Moved by Helgerson, seconded by Trautman that Jasmin Ramirez be appointed as Recording Secretary. Aye: Maser, Pieper, Smith. Nay: None. Absent: Wiese. Motion passed.

Moved by Pieper, seconded by Trautman, that the agenda be approved as listed. Aye: Helgerson, Maser, Smith. Nay: None. Wiese: None. Motion passed.

Moved by Trautman, seconded by Pieper, that the consent action items be approved as listed. Aye: Helgerson, Maser, Smith. Nay: None. Absent: Wiese. Motion passed.

Public Forum: None

Reports:

- Ryan Wetherington, a senior from Mitchell High School, spoke to the board about his experience at VALTS. Ryan stated that without VALTS, he didn't think he would graduate. The VALTS staff helped him and worked with his schedule at work and personal life. Ryan enjoyed his time at VALTS and the relationships he gained as a student. He plans to attend culinary school and is looking into applying for a scholarship to a college in Omaha. Ryan's goal is to own his own restaurant in the future.
- John Einfalt, VALTS Social Studies teacher, informed the Board that he has been teaching at VALTS for 10 years and working on his 11th year. Einfalt informed the Board that 5 students completed the program in March and participated in the VALTS Recognition Ceremony. Einfalt shared his favorite story about student Ryan Wetherington. Einfalt explained to the Board that VALTS allows students to be in person with certified teachers and are able to make connections with other students and staff. Einfalt will teach Modern Issues during the fourth quarter. The course will focus on business law, steps to be a juror, mock trials, etc. Einfalt discussed community service and other opportunities during the third quarter. The community opportunities included Bikers in Dresses, Shopping for Seniors, Weekend Backpack Program, Quilts of Valor Foundation and raising money for Festival of Hope.
- Administrator's Report:
 - Tom Peacock informed the Board that there are seat changes in the Inter-Local Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - Mitchell- 8 seats, Gering- 5 seats, Bridgeport- 3 seats, Morrill- 3 seats, Bayard- 2 seats, Minatare- 2 seats, Creek Valley- 1 seat, Sidney, 1 seat, Banner County-1 seat, and Kimball-1 seat.
 - Leyton Public Schools is joining the Inter-Local Agreement for the 2025-2026 with 1 seat.
 - The VALTS Board of Education will have different school district representation based on the seat amounts of each school district that will take effect in September 2025.
 - Mitchell Public Schools will have 3 BOE representatives
 - Gering Public Schools will have 2 BOE representatives
 - Bridgeport Public Schools will have 1 BOE representative
 - Morrill Public Schools will have 1 BOE representative
 - VALTS had their 3rd Quarter Recognition Ceremony on March 5th, 2025
 - 3 Gering students graduated
 - 1 Mitchell student graduates

- 1 Morrill student graduated
- VALTS will have their 4th Quarter Recognition Ceremony on May 14th, 2025
 - Possibly 10 graduates total. Graduates expected to come from Gering, Sidney, Mitchell, Kimball, Minatare, Bayard and Bridgeport
 - Ceremony will be held in the PLEX Room at the Harms Center
 - Total VALTS graduates to date: 784
- Sidney VALTS location will continue to have a facilitator on present with approximately 3 students in attendance for the 2025-2026 school year.
- The interview process has started for the Director of Alternative Education position. There are currently 4 applicants.
- Future VALTS Board meeting dates
 - June 10th, 2025
 - September 9th, 2025
 - December 9th, 2025
- Board Member Comments-none

Business:

Moved by Pieper, seconded by Maser that the Board approve the revised Inter-Local Agreement with the following changes: Gering-5 slots, Sidney-1 slot, Leyton- 1 slot. Aye: Helgerson, Smith, Trautman. Nay: None. Absent: Wiese. Motion passed.

Adjourn

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 PM