

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, June 11, 2024, at 12:07 PM at the Harms Center, 2620 College Park, Scottsbluff, NE. Meeting notice was published in the Star-Herald on June 6, 2024.

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, BJ Peters, Paul Pieper, Brenda Smith, Tracy Wiese.

Absent: John Maser and Kathy Nienhueser.

Moved by Peters, seconded by Wiese, that absent Board members Maser and Nienhueser be excused. Aye: Helgerson, Pieper, Smith. Nay: None. Absent: Maser, Nienhueser. Motion passed.

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

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

Public Forum: None

Reports:

- Administrator's Report:
  - Mr. Tom Peacock discussed the changes being made to the Alternative Education department. Panhandle Beginnings will now be a student program under the Alternative Education department with Mr. Peacock overseeing the program as Principal. Peacock informed the Board that he was already involved in the program but will be more involved going forward. He explained how Panhandle Beginnings is designed and staffed as well as the referral and transition processes.
  - VALTS had 19 graduates during the 2023-2024 school year.
    - 10 from Gering Public School District
    - 4 from Bridgeport Public School District
    - 1 from Bayard Public School District
    - 1 from Banner County Public School District
    - 1 from Minatare Public School District

- 1 from Mitchell Public School District
  - 1 from Morrill Public School District
- VALTS has had 771 total graduates since the 1998-1999 school year.
- VALTS and LifeLink classrooms will be located in B118, B120, and B121 during the 2024-2025 school year. The VALTS office and teacher offices will remain in the same rooms. Peacock discussed the process of moving classrooms temporarily, including sufficient technology availability for our staff and students. It is projected that VALTS classrooms will be ready to move back into after approximately 3 semesters.
- ESU 13 will acquire a new room during the 2025-2026 school year. Peacock discussed ideas he's had regarding what to use the room for. He discussed using the space to offer courses that involve hands-on curriculum. Ideas would include art, mechanics, wood working, etc. There is a possibility of other ESU 13 student programs being able to benefit from this type of room. Peacock has plans to reach out to ESU 3 as they have a similar room at their location.
- There were several changes made to the 2024-2025 VALTS Student Handbook.
  - Updated Morrill Superintendent and Principal: Todd Chessmore
  - Updated ESU #13 Compliance Coordinator/Human Resources Manager
  - "If students have qualified for special education services, an IEP must be held to determine the least restrictive environment and change of placement." Section III-Criteria for Admission
  - "Reasonable student expectation to complete the program within 6 quarters of graduation class." Section III-Criteria for Admission
  - Grade scale was added to Section III-Academic Requirements
  - Added information to Section V-Attendance
    - Absences
      - The last 30 min. of the day (each session) has been set aside for "make-up time".
        - Students have the week of grade checks to turn in missing work.
        - Student must stay during "WIN" time on Friday for missing work.
        - Students refusing to stay the 30min on Fridays will result in the missing work
        - being marked as "0".
      - Parents will be notified of all absences.
    - Tardies
      - Parents will be notified of continued tardiness.
- VALTS will receive DL incentive dollars for offering distance learning courses to surrounding school districts. Peacock explained that the money comes from state lottery funds and every class offered is \$1,000 and \$2,000 for smaller school districts. The forecasted amount to be received from the 2023-2024 school year is \$44,000.

- The 2024-2025 proposed Budget amount is \$341,100. Peacock explained the different factors that contributed to the proposed amount. There have been changes to his salary due to the additional student program being added to the Alternative Education department. VALTS teachers and staff will receive a 4.5% raise in the 2024-2025 school year due to cost of living. The slot cost will remain the same at \$8,000 per slot for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Future VALTS Board meeting dates:
  - September 10th, 2024
  - December 10th, 2024
  - March 11th, 2025
- Board Member Comments-
  - Mr. Peters informed the Board that WNCC has been helpful while ESU 13 is preparing to move student program classes to different rooms at the Harms Center.

Business:

Moved by Pieper, seconded by Smith that the Board approve the proposed VALTS 2024-2025 Academic Calendar. Aye: Helgerson, Peters, Wiese. Nay: None. Absent: Maser and Nienhueser. Motion passed.

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Pieper, that the Board approve the proposed VALTS 2024-2025 Student Handbook. Aye: Helgerson, Peters, Smith. Nay: None. Absent: Maser, Nienhueser. Motion passed.

Moved by Peters, seconded by Wiese, that the Board approve the proposed VALTS 2024-2025 Budget in the amount of \$341,100. Aye: Helgerson, Pieper, Smith. Nay: None. Absent: Maser, Nienhueser. Motion passed.

Adjourn

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 PM.