

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 9, 2026, at 12:00 PM at the Harms Center, 2620 College Park, Scottsbluff, NE. Meeting notice was published in the Star-Herald on June 4, 2026.

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: Kay Anderson, Brad Helgerson, Doug Keener, John Maser, Mark Spencer.

Absent: Joe Muhr, Greg Trautman.

Moved by Keener, seconded by Maser, that absent Board members Muhr and Trautman be excused. Aye: Anderson, Helgerson, Keener, Maser and Spencer. Nay: None. Absent: Muhr and Trautman. Motion passed.

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

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

Public Forum: None

Reports:

- Administrator's Report: Dr. Derek Peil
 - Maker Space Grant.
 - \$99,412 was requested and received.
 - Morrill Public Schools is the fiscal agent
 - The space will be available to all member districts of ESU 13
 - Personnel Changes
 - Cassandra Behnke, VALTS Science teacher, resigned
 - John Einfalt, VALTS Social Studies teacher, resigned.
 - Cinthya Brown, former VALTS Science teacher, has been hired.
 - Lesley Billingsley and Cinthya Brown both have a Social Studies endorsement. Social Studies will still be offered to VALTS students.

- Karen Reason has a Business endorsement and will provide Financial Literacy courses to online students.
- VALTS for Veterans Golf Ball Drop
 - \$3,395 raised at the event will go to the VFW.
 - \$3,395 raised at the event will go to VALTS student scholarships, field trips and activities.
 - Guest speakers included: Chuck Evelo (Commander of the VFW 1681), Damarys Portillo (current VALTS student), Steve Olsen (Attorney at Simmons-Olsen Law Firm), Scott Marsh (ESU 13 Board Member), Whitney Hooton (VALTS Alumni), and Presentation of Colors by Honor Guard-Sons of the Legion.
 - Nic Spaur (current VALTS student) performed the National Anthem.
 - VALTS will seek to partner with different Veteran organizations each year.
- Scholarship Program Outline
 - Proposed eight-step process
 - Student application required
 - Teacher interview questions
 - Scoring rubric
- Changes to the student handbook
 - The 2026-2027 VALTS Student Handbook will have changes that include an AI statement and an updated attendance policy.
- Amendment of the VALTS Interlocal Cooperative Agreement
 - Removal of Sidney Public Schools
 - Addition of the Mission, Vision and Values Statement
 - Developed through a collaborative effort with students, staff and VALTS Board of Education
- Amendment of the VALTS Bylaws
 - Removal of Sidney Public Schools
- 2026-2027 VALTS Budget
 - Please note that the budget amount listed on the agenda is incorrect. The actual budget for the 2026–2027 school year is **\$258,103**. The budget was adjusted following staffing changes, and the revised amount should be reflected in all official documents and records.
- Future VALTS Board meeting dates
 - September 8th, 2026
 - December 8th, 2026
 - March 9th, 2027
- Board Member Comments
 - Doug Keener complimented the VALTS for Veterans Golf Ball Drop as he was present for the event.

Business:

Moved by Maser, seconded by Keener that the Board approve the proposed VALTS 2026-2027 Academic Calendar. Aye: Anderson, Helgerson, Keener, Maser, and Spencer. Nay: None. Absent: Muhr and Trautman. Motion passed.

Moved by Keener, seconded by Maser that the Board approve the proposed VALTS 2026-2027 Student Handbook. Aye: Anderson, Helgerson, Keener, Maser, and Spencer. Nay: None. Absent: Muhr and Trautman. Motion passed.

Moved by Anderson, seconded by Spencer that the Board approve the proposed Amendment to the VALTS Interlocal Cooperative Agreement. Aye: Anderson, Helgerson, Keener, Maser, and Spencer. Nay: None. Absent: Muhr and Trautman. Motion passed.

Moved by Spencer, seconded by Anderson that the Board approve the proposed Amendment to the VALTS Bylaws. Aye: Anderson, Helgerson, Keener, Maser, and Spencer. Nay: None. Absent: Muhr and Trautman. Motion passed.

Moved by Keener, seconded by Spencer that the Board approve the proposed VALTS Student Scholarship Process. Aye: Anderson, Helgerson, Keener, Maser, and Spencer. Nay: None. Absent: Muhr and Trautman. Motion passed.

Moved by Maser, seconded by Anderson that the Board approve the proposed VALTS 2026-2027 Budget of \$258,103. Aye: Anderson, Helgerson, Keener, Maser, and Spencer. Nay: None. Absent: Muhr and Trautman. Motion passed.

Adjourn

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:29 PM