

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, September 10, 2024, at 12:08 PM at the Harms Center, 2620 College Park, Scottsbluff, NE. Meeting notice was published in the Star-Herald on September 5, 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, Tracy Wiese.

Absent: John Maser, Kathy Nienhueser, Brenda Smith.

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

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

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

Public Forum: None

Reports:

- Student Report: Isaac Galindo introduced himself to the Board members. Isaac has been a student at VALTS since last school year and came from the Minatare Public School District. He is currently a senior and will graduate in October from VALTS. Isaac described his experience at VALTS as “really awesome”. Isaac informed the Board that he is taking college courses for welding at WNCC and has plans to get his Associate’s Degree through WNCC after graduating high school. Isaac explained that he has been more successful at VALTS due to the smaller class sizes and a different environment in general. Isaac will be done with his welding courses in May of 2025.
- Teacher Report: Cassandra Behnke, VALTS Science teacher, informed the Board that this is her second year teaching at VALTS. Mrs. Behnke and two other VALTS teachers taught summer school for the area districts. It went well for the students as it was beneficial to have facilitators for the students on zoom. Behnke informed the Board that VALTS students have been active in the community while partnering with Wildcat Hills, Lincoln Heights (Trout in the Classroom), Scottsbluff County Volunteer Center (Shopping

for Seniors), and Festival of Hope. VALTS students have taken on a new volunteer role by helping to fill Pup Packs for students of the Gering Public School District. Behnke's goal is to make her science courses more practical and applicable.

- Administrator's Report:
 - Mr. Peacock informed the Board that VALTS currently has 38 students enrolled counting 7 students on Zoom from Bridgeport Public Schools.
 - Sidney Public Schools has communicated their plan to drop to 1 seat during the 2025-2026 school year, then will no longer be in the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement as they plan to hold 0 seats starting in the Fall of 2026. The need for a Sidney facilitator position will be discussed at a later date.
 - WNCC is set to begin construction at the end of September, beginning of October. Student classrooms are located in B118 and B120 and it is going well. WNCC worked well with our technology team to make sure our classrooms are equipped with what is needed. Dr. Barrett has communicated plans of updating the classrooms and conference rooms E185-189 during the time of construction.
 - There are three students projected to graduate from VALTS during the 1st Quarter Ceremony in October. One student from Minatare Public Schools, one student from Sidney Public Schools and one student from Gering Public Schools.
 - There has been interest in our Alternative Education services from Chadron Public Schools.
- Future VALTS Board meeting dates
 - December 10th, 2024
 - March 11th, 2025
 - June 10th, 2025
- Board member comments-none

Business: none

Adjourn

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