

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 9, 2025, at 12:02 PM at the Harms Center, 2620 College Park, Scottsbluff, NE. The meeting notice was published in the Star-Herald on September 4, 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.

Mr. Helgerson appointed new board members Kay Anderson, Bridgeport Public Schools, Doug Keener, Mitchell Public Schools, and Joe Muhr, Morrill Public Schools, to the VALTS Board of Education.

Mr. Helgerson rearranged the order of the agenda to appoint the VALTS Alternate Board Member from Gering Public Schools at 12:06PM.

Moved by Maser, seconded by Helgerson that the Board approve the appointment of Tracy Wiese as the VALTS Alternate Board Member from Gering Public Schools. Aye: Anderson, Helgerson, Maser, Muhr. Nay: None. Absent: Kenner, Pieper, Trautman. Motion Passed.

Present: Kay Anderson, Brad Helgerson, John Maser, Joe Muhr, Tracy Wiese.

Absent: Doug Keener, Paul Pieper, Greg Trautman

Oath of Office taken and signed by Kay Anderson, Joe Muhr, and Tracy Wiese. Doug Keener will receive the Oath of Office through the mail for signature.

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

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

Moved by Maser, seconded by Muhr, that the consent action items (Minutes of June meeting and Fourth Quarter Billing) be approved as listed. Aye: Anderson, Helgerson, Maser, Muhr, Wiese. Nay: None. Absent: Keener, Pieper, Trautman. Motion passed.

Public Forum: None

Reports:

- Student Report: Madi Gould, a senior from Gering High School. Gould informed the Board that she will be graduating from VALTS in October and is planning to pursue a career in electrical engineering. Gould has been a VALTS student since August of 2024 and has enjoyed the small class sizes and positive atmosphere.
- Teacher Report: John Einfalt, VALTS Social Studies Teacher. Einfalt informed the Board that he is teaching American History this quarter with a focus on Nebraska History. It is Einfalt's 11th year teaching at VALTS. His career in education started as substitute teacher for the PACES program. He spoke about how the program is beneficial and unique due to small class sizes and the ability to foster positive student-teacher relationships.
- Administrator's Report: Dr. Derek Peil
 - Dr. Peil introduced himself as the VALTS Principal and Director of Alternative Education.
 - Dr. Peil prepared and presented a Google Slides presentation for his report. "VALTS Director Board Report".
 - Introduction:
 - 11 years in education
 - Alternative/Tier III Day Treatment Principal, Assistant Junior High Principal and Summer School Principal in Cheyenne, WY
 - Highschool, Football, Basketball, and Soccer Coach
 - English teacher-Title 1 School
 - PhD from R1 Texas Tech University
 - Research Fellow
 - Enrollment:
 - 29 students currently enrolled
 - 5 students at Sidney location
 - 4 students on track for quarter 1 graduation
 - 4 students over VALTS Inter-Local seats
 - 3 open seats
 - Empower Big Potential is the theme this school year, adopted from ESU 13's staff theme
 - Back-to-School Orientation Highlights
 - "Welcome to VALTS" Video created by Mary Brumage, ESU 13 Communications Specialist presented to the Board.
 - Expansion of Mental Health Supports through ESU 13's Department of Psychology & Behavioral Health
 - Raising Student Expectations & Strengthening Remote Engagement
 - PBIS
 - Routine Teacher Meetings (Professional Learning Communities)
 - Sidney Facilitation (Active Engagement)
 - Expanded Course Offerings via NEVA (Nebraska Educational Virtual Academy) for VALTS Students

- Professional Development and Continuous Improvement Cycles
 - Field Trip, Guest Speakers, and Career Readiness Presentations
 - Student Voice and Choice Surveys
 - Principal and Student 1:1 Empowerment Conversations
 - Preparation for Strategic Planning: Budget & Service Expansion
 - Value-Add Current Program
 - Expand to Northern Panhandle
 - Augment Funds via Distance Learning
- Future VALTS Board meeting dates:
 - December 9th, 2025
March 10th, 2026
 - June 9th, 2025
- Board Member Comments-
 - Tracy Wiese expressed her excitement about attending VALTS Board Meetings and hearing about how the students and program is doing as a whole.

Business:

Moved by Wiese, seconded by Maser that the Board approve the Valley Alternative Learning Transitioning School (VALTS) Amendment to Bylaws. Aye: Anderson, Helgerson, Maser, Muhr, Wiese. Nay: None. Absent: Keener, Pieper, Trautman,. Motion passed.

Moved by Maser, seconded by Muhr, that the Board approve the proposed revision of the Valley Alternative Learning Transitioning School (VALTS) 2025-2026 Academic Calendar. Aye: Helgerson, Pieper, Smith, Trautman. Nay: None. Absent: Maser, Wiese. Motion passed.

Adjourn

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 1:01 PM.