

OFFICIAL MINUTES, 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, December 9, 2025, at 12:06 PM at the Harms Center, 2620 College Park, Scottsbluff, NE. Meeting notice was published in the Star-Herald on December 2, 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: Kay Anderson, Brad Helgerson, Doug Keener, John Maser, Greg Trautman.

Absent: Joe Muhr, Paul Pieper.

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

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

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

Public Forum: None

Reports:

- Student Report: Gabriel Garza
 - Gabe informed the Board that he is a student at Bayard High School and has been a student at VALTS since his sophomore year. He shared that he will graduate from VALTS on December 17. Gabe explained how VALTS positively changed his life, noting that during his time there he turned things around and became a successful student. He credited his success to the caring staff and the shorter daily schedule. Gabe also shared his plans to enroll in a CDL course at WNCC.
- Teacher Report: Lesley Billingsley

- Billingsley is the VALTS English teacher and is currently teaching a speech course to students. She emphasized the importance of meeting students where they are academically. Because many students struggle with speech, Billingsley has found effective ways to help them be successful in the course. She shared a speech from a current student with the Board; the student had also received the Phoenix Award in October and presented an item that was important to her life to her peers. Billingsley informed the Board that VALTS teachers select the courses they teach while still adhering to state standards. She also shared that she may teach a novel study next quarter.
- Administrator's Report: Dr. Derek Peil
 - Dr. Peil prepared and presented a Google Slides presentation for his report. "VALTS Director Board Report".
 - Enrollment Update
 - Strategic Expansion Plan Progress
 - VALTS Expansion Proposal through Distance Learning
 - Value Proposition
 - The Power of VALTS Data Dig
 - Individualized Learning Plans & Multi-Tiered System of Support
 - Positive Behavior and Attendance Program Results
 - Career Exploration Activities
 - Field Trips and Place-Based Learning
 - Service Learning and Volunteerism
 - Starting of Student Scholarship Program
 - Maker Space Grant
 - Student Voice-Maker Space
 - VALTS Board Maker Space Input
 - Board members participated in an input activity involving vision, goals, learning experiences, equipment and design of the maker space.
 - Mission, Vision, and Values Revision
 - Collaborative Approach
 - On an earlier date, students participated in a brainstorming activity to help with the revision of the mission, vision and values. The results were shared with the Board.
- Future VALTS Board meeting dates:
 - March 10th, 2026
 - June 9th, 2026
 - September 8th, 2026

- Board Member Comments-
 - None

Business: none

Adjourn

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 PM.