

**SOUTHEAST REGION CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER  
BOARD MEETING  
1/28/2026 – 7:00 p.m.**

The Southeast Region Career & Technology Center Board met January 28, 2026. The meeting was hosted at the Career/Tech Centers in Wahpeton and Oakes with video connections. Markus Geffre, President, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Board Members Present

Kris Beck–N Sargent-V  
Nathan Berseth-Richland 44-V  
Chad Fyre-Milnor-V  
Markus Geffre-Fairmount-W  
Lisa Graves – Wahpeton-W  
Brandon Hanson-Sargent Central-V  
Amanda Huber-Edgeley-O  
Ben Loll-Campbell-Tintah-W  
John Manstrom-Wyndmere-V  
Michelle Nelson-Wahpeton-W  
Tom Nitschke-Kulm-O  
Mark Qual-Lisbon-O  
Sadie Siemieniewski-Lidgerwood-V  
Val Wagner – Ellendale-V

Board Members Absent

Sheila Nagel – Oakes  
Jason Semerad-Hankinson

Others Present

Dan Spellerberg, Director-W  
Randal Brockman, Asst. Director-O  
Janel Sayler, Bus Mgr-W  
Michael Bitz, Auto Instructor-V  
Scott Ripplinger, Auto Instructor-V

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Nathan, seconded by Ben, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment - None

Motion by Michelle, seconded by Lisa, to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2025, Career/Tech Center meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mark, seconded by Amanda, to approve the December Expenditure & Revenue Report. Revenue is at \$3,011,880 or 53.26% while expenses are at \$2,345,655 or 41.48%. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lisa, seconded by Val, to approve the December Activity Account Report. Edgeley/Kulm FFA is in the negative but we received a check from EPS in January. The balance of the Activities Account is \$236,420. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ben, seconded by Michelle, to approve the January General Fund bills as submitted in the amount of \$79,719. Some purchases/payments include: a drywall attachment for screw guns \$141; Oakes wall heater was installed \$7,000; Ms. Luebke embedded a yoga class into her elementary lessons \$108; laser engraver repair \$1,539;

ACTE VISION conference expenses; plumbing supplies from Iverson Plumbing for Wahpeton Ag \$606; training arms for EMT \$4,044; 5-yr tank leases for Lisbon Ag \$3,312; NDCA midwinter conference registration for the counselors \$1,430; and hot water heater power issue in new Wahpeton Ag bldg/cord ends \$1,542. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mark, seconded by Amanda, to approve Marley Foss and Ben Adams as the recipients of the January Student Awards of Excellence. Marley is an Oakes Junior enrolled in EMT and was nominated by her instructor Mrs. Wertz. Ben was nominated by his Diesel instructor Mr. Engelmann and is a Hankinson Senior. Motion carried unanimously.

Instructors Mr. Bitz and Mr. Ripplinger highlighted their Wahpeton Auto Tech Program. There are 19 students this year. Mr. Bitz will forward student pictures to Mr. Spellerberg to forward to the board. Mr. Bitz said the students love hands-on activities such as rebuilding engines, differentials, etc. He intends to talk to Mr. Stone and ND CTE Trade Industry & Tech Ed Supervisor Tracy Becker about adding Light Duty Automotive Maintenance Repair as a new SkillsUSA contest. Mr. Ripplinger praised Ben Adams, saying he is a very ambitious student.

Texturing was completed in the 2026 House last weekend and painting will be done this weekend. Flooring will be limited as far as colors in order to blend with the trim and millwork. The students have been making wall sections in the CT shop. First year students are taping, texturing, doing seams; when done, Mr. Stone will knock holes in their work and the students will have to make the repairs. Years 2 & 3 students are working on a small cabinetry project, a mobile food pantry for the community.

Dan had sent the updated Program of Work to the board last month. He asked that, if anyone has questions or suggestions, to let him know.

Motion by Ben, seconded by Lisa, to accept the resignation of Tanner Zetocha, North Sargent Ag Instructor, effective February 1, with the cost of \$7,500 for contract severance/liquidated damages. Dan mentioned we are losing a very gifted teacher. He is going into Ag Lending in Oakes. Dan and Randal held Mr. Zetocha's exit interview last Wednesday. Mr. Zetocha gave great feedback and info. A substitute teacher has been lined up for February. A potential substitute could possibly start March 1. A college graduate reached out today. There was some discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lisa to say no to Janel's retirement. Motion died for lack of a second. Motion by Ben, seconded by Kris, to accept Janel's retirement effective the end of this fiscal year June 30, 2026. Janel has been with the Center for 38 ½ years. Motion by Ben, seconded by Lisa, to appoint Michelle and Marcus, who volunteered, to be on a hiring committee to fill the Business Manager position. Motions carried unanimously.

Motion by Michelle, seconded by Lisa, to accept Mark and Ben who volunteered for the Admin Negotiations Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

The board viewed activities planned for February, which is National CTE Month. The theme this year is "Level up w/CTE—Skills that pay off!" Center tours have been

scheduled for membership school students. Dan was interviewed yesterday for the Daily News spread highlighting CTE Month. The first week in February is National School Counseling and SkillsUSA Week; FCCLA Week is February 9-13; and February 21-28 is FFA Week.

Dan and Randal will present at the member school board meetings as follows: Wyndmere 2/9-7:00 pm; Wahpeton 2/11-6 p.m.; Lidgerwood 2/12-7:30 pm; Oakes 2/17-7 a.m. w/a meal at the Center and North Sargent 2/17 at 5:00 p.m. Dan asked the board to let Randal and him know if they want anything specific covered.

### *Assistant Director's Report*

Emerging Tech will be starting the 4<sup>th</sup> rotation. Training will be scheduled for new equipment that has been recently received. Equipment that will be easier to operate is being researched.

Dr. Joe Sanfelippo was the keynote speaker at the January 19 regional in-service. He spoke about methods and things they use in their schools to strengthen staff and students. There were breakout sessions where teachers visited with other teachers in their program areas. Dan led training on the mobile labs for the Ag instructors. That afternoon, Shelly Swanson spoke on collaborative teams.

Victoria Moreno is student teaching with Mrs. Ketterling and Mr. Young at Edgeley School this semester.

### *Director's Report*

Dan mentioned the podcast "13 Predictions for Technical Education in 2026" by Matt Kirchner. Dan was on one of previous episodes. Dan appreciates Matt's perceptions, views and things to consider.

Victoria, our student teacher, attended the NDAAE Mid-winter Conference, held at Bismarck Schools Career Academy January 26-27.

Tomorrow Dan is hosting The Rural Leadership of ND. Mrs. Bouressa will speak about Work-Based Learning. Mr. Prante & the Chef Training students will be providing lunch.

SRCTC's counselors will be attending the NDCA midwinter conference in Bismarck February 14-17.

Discussion was held on the three-day legislative session. Twenty bills were proposed; of those, seven bills passed. The school lunch bill was defeated so it may go to the vote of the people. A lot of people qualify for free or reduced meals but don't apply. Funding for school meals will have a large impact on K-12 funding. Also discussed was rural health funds and grants. Dan feels SRCTC is in a position to help with rural health education and training.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at the Career/Tech Centers and any other requested sites or video connections.

Motion by Ben, seconded by Lisa, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7.58 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janel Sayler", enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

Janel Sayler, Business Manager