SOUTH DAKOTA
BOARD OF EDUCATION STANDARDS
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2026, 9:00 am (CT)
DEC - 720 Lamont St. Aberdeen, SD 57401

Members:
Present

Phyllis Heineman
Jean Moulton – Virtual – Joined at approximately 9:32 a.m.
Linda Olsen
Rich Meyer – Vice President
Steven Perkins – President
Greg Von Wald
Tonia Warzecha

DOE Staff: Joseph Graves, Amanda LaCroix, Anna King, Laura Scheibe, Shannon Malone, Kathryn Blaha, Vera Van Winkle, Jordan Varilek, George Seamon, Amy Miller

Others: Members of the public

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call
The South Dakota Board of Education Standards (BOES) was called to order by President Perkins at approximately 9:02 a.m. CT.

Adoption of Agenda
Motion by Meyer to adopt the September 28, 2026, agenda. Second by Heineman. Voice vote. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. Voting aye: Meyer, Heineman, Olsen, Von Wald, Warzecha, and Perkins.

Approval of Minutes
Motion by Olsen second by Von Wald to approve the June 22, 2026, minutes. Voice vote. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Meyer, Olsen, Von Wald, Warzecha, and Perkins

Public Comment

Audrey Schuller, an individual from Britton, SD. Ms. Schuller stated there are local concerns about proficiency levels in math and reading. Ms. Schuller raised the request for the Board to issue a document or memo to protect students from vulgar, obscene, and inappropriate school library books, similar to a letter issued recently by the Florida Board of Education. She pointed to SDCL § 22-24-27 and stated that while schools updated their policies, they are not reviewing their catalogs or purchases to keep out materials that are harmful to minors.

APPROVED

Jeanne Algran, an individual from Britton, SD. Ms. Algran spoke regarding the past two years to remove Sora's ebooks which contained vulgar, inappropriate books. She requested the state to direct schools and school boards to not have inappropriate books in their school libraries and to set standards regarding school library books.

Recessed for Technical Difficulties 9:18am-9:21am

Content Standards - First Hearing
World Language Standards
Shannon Malone, Director, Division of Learning & Instruction, SD Department of Education, presented the proposed changes to the World Language standards. Director Malone shared the number of students who indicate English is not their first language is continuing to increase and represent 113 various languages spoken in our K-12 schools. The current and proposed standards are heavily based on the 5C's framework- communication, cultures, connection, comparison, and communities. The proposed standards have been revised for better clarity and less redundancy. Two public comments were received. The first comment stated satisfaction and a minor suggestion. Second comment suggested that the chart from the 2019 standards be included, pointed out a grammatical error, and suggested changes that were voted on by the group.

Proponent Testimony
Gayla Martens spoke as a proponent and stated that she had participated in the work group that created the standards back in 2018 and again this summer on the proposed standards.

Fred Osborn, Director of the SD Office of Indian Education, Department of Tribal Relations and announced their support for the revisions of the proposed World Language standards.

Opponent Testimony
No opponent testimony.

Board discussion regarding the proposed World Language standards. Board members asked Director Malone about the comment received regarding a lack of measurable goals, the chart from the 2018 standards, and the 5C's framework.

Library Standards
George Seamon, State Librarian, presented the proposed Library standards. The proposed standards maintain the three stands of textual literacy, information literacy, and civic and ethical literacy with grade span progression, and vertical alignment.

Proponent Testimony
No proponent testimony.

APPROVED

Opponent Testimony
Audrey Schuller asked how school librarians utilize the standards as many of them are paraprofessionals. Mr. Seamon responded that the standards were simplified and removed some of the jargon.

Board members asked questions about the course that is offered, certified librarians, and school libraries. Scottie Bruch answered the state library offers a course that includes sample lesson plans to assist with the standards. Board member Moulton intended to submit suggested revisions.

Career and Technical Education Standards - 10:02 am
Amy Miller, Assistant Director of Career and Technical Education, SD Department of Education, presented the proposed changes to the Career and Technical Education standards that included all the CTE career clusters. Ms. Miller discussed all the career clusters and the proposed changes within.

Board members asked questions about teacher certification, percentage of students participating in CTE, and middle school CTE.

Proponent Testimony
Tiffany Sanderson, President of Lake Area Technical College, spoke in support of the standards and the alignment from middle/high school to post-secondary.

Anna Schwan, individual, participated in the revision process. She spoke that the revised framework reflects the change in the workforce and appreciates the hands-on, real-world learning.

Michelle Black, Northwestern Energy, served on the standards review committee and emphasized the significance of adding the energy and natural resources cluster.

Erich Schaffhauser, Aberdeen School District, who served on the arts, entertainment, and design cluster committee. He states that the proposed standards do a nice job of preparing students for jobs.

Elizabeth Ketterling, individual, served on the education and human services committee and her focus during the committee was what is in the best interest of the students.

Opponent Testimony
No opponent testimony.

Board members commended the work done on the standards.
Public hearing concluded at 11:14 am.

APPROVED

Approval/Revision of State-Designated Content Tests
Dr. Kathryn Blaha, Director of Accreditation and Certification, SD Department of Education, presented the proposed changes to the state-designated content test for adding endorsements on an educator certificate. Board members asked about the lower cut score on the paraprofessional test and the impact on teachers currently looking to add endorsements. Motion to approve the changes in the state-designated content test as presented by Von Wald. Second by Heineman. Roll call vote. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. Voting aye: Moulton, Heineman, Olsen, Meyer, Von Wald, Warzecha and Perkins.

Annual Conflict Disclosures
Tonia Warzecha disclosed her current employment with the Tea Area School District.

Open Meetings Law Review
The board has completed its annual review of the open meetings law after a brief presentation by Amanda LaCroix and board discussion/questions.

Secretary's Report 11:34 am
Dr. Graves reported on recent DOE events including the Literacy Summit and the TOY Banquet. He also spoke about bringing the accountability report to the next BOES meeting. President Perkins asked about the recent litigation settlements and the recent adoption by the Florida Board of Education regarding communism, socialism, and capitalism.

Board discussed the possibility of touring the Tea Area School District following their meeting in Sioux Falls School District.

Board Mission Statement 11:42 am
Board discussed creating a literacy subcommittee to discuss literacy action/goals. Board discussed the purpose of the mission statement and priorities of the board. The board also discussed gaining feedback from their decisions such as the standards and professional development the Department offers. The subcommittee consists of board members Moulton, Warzecha, and Perkins.

Board Report and General Discussion
Board congratulated Christina Berger, the South Dakota Teacher of the Year, from Harrisburg, and all the regional teachers of year.

Adjournment
Motion by Moulton to adjourn. Second by Heineman. Voice vote. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. Voting aye: Moulton, Heineman, Olsen, Meyer, Von Wald, Warzecha and Perkins.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:10 CT.

APPROVED