

Learning Community Coordinating Council Meeting Agenda

August 21, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

1612 North 24th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68110

Learning Community Vision: *That all children within the Learning Community achieve academic success without regard to social or economic circumstances.*

The subjects to be discussed or considered, or upon which any formal action may be taken, are as follows: **

1. **Opening the Meeting:**

- a. **Call to order:** The regular meeting of the Learning Community Coordinating Council is called to order on August 21, 2025, at 6:01 p.m.
- b. **Council Mission Statement:** Together with school districts and community organizations as partners, we demonstrate, share, and implement more effective practices to measurably improve educational outcomes for children and families in poverty.
- c. **Public Notice and Compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Law:** Public Notice was published in The Daily Record on August 15, 2025, and on the Learning Community Website.
- d. **Council Roll Call:** Present: 9 Excused: 1 Absent: 2
Quorum: Y
- e. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Please stand and face the flag for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Public Comment:** Are there any public comments?

3. **Reports:**

- 1. **Good News Report:** N/A
- 2. **Chair Report:** SS- *This is another opportunity to open our doors. Welcome to community members and showcase the impact of our programs and partnerships. Additionally, we have an honor and recognize an award that our CEO will officially report on in November, this recognition coincides with our original scheduled program, and our board meeting. Therefore, November meeting will be adjusted. So please be on the lookout for an updated date and a formal invitation from Kione. This past month, we also had the privilege to attend the Buffet early childhood*

Institute board of advisor's dinner. It is so exciting to strengthen our relationship with our partners. The evaluation is going out for our CEO, so the board members should be looking out for that, it is due by September 12 to evaluate the CEO and his work. Together, we continue to build the momentum, recognition and partnership that strengthen our beliefs serve. Thank you all for continuing new work, dedication and leadership in advancing the mission of the learning community.

3. **CEO Report:** *GK-All right, my CEO report for the August meeting is as follows. Organizational update and propose new organizational chart for our learning community south, location. So, the previous organizational chart just had all of the managers, the program director, which is Anne who is present today and then the one world CEO. It didn't have any leadership from the learning community on there, so with our new alignment, I want to add the learning community to the organizational structure for the learning community south. I have already ran that by the CEO from One World, and Mrs. Andrew Stokan, she is on board with it. In fact, we're going to meet next week to discuss how the learning community and one world can be more aligned, strategically, just to make sure things are seamless. the thing is, it just for a long time, Ann has done a great job of just running the ship at learning community south, we want to assist Anne to make sure that we have a lot more alignment for the learning community and make sure that everything is aligned as far as how we recruit, how we're on board staff. We want to make sure that there's least deviation from the learning community north as possible. We all want to be on the same page and have the same line Partnerships and recognition. So as Chair Shelton, alluded to in her report, at this year's Milagro Awards, which through the help of you guys, I know, Milagro means miracle. So Milagro means Miracle Award. So the Miracle Awards, changemakers will be honored for their contributions. One world, annual Milagro Award, Dinner is an opportunity to recognize changemakers in the community, who embody the one world mission. Their work symbolizes the miracles that happen every day, at one world through the generosity of others, and so this year, the learning community has never been selected, and so this year, the learning community was selected as the awardee for the 2025. So that dinner will be held in November. Its on the same day as our November meeting, so hopefully we can move our meeting up one day to Wednesday. Kione will send those invitations out for the meeting that will of course, move all of our subcommittee meetings up if need be, we have two tables that I would love to have all of our council members present while we receive this award. We are excited to announce that the human resources department is launching several new initiatives aimed at increasing staff retention and mission alignment. I'm sure Latoya will talk about that later. Operational enhancements. we have added, I think, nine cameras in total to cover every entry, and an exit door, and there's even a camera in here too. they also put a camera out in vestibule area. I think that making sure that the learning community is a safe and secure place for the community is very important to me, and getting that done under budget was a great feat for the learning community. great job and kudos go out to LaToya and Kione for coordinating that. Moving forward as*

we continue to grow, we've already served over 200 families in this area, in 2025. As we grow, we get different populations, and as we get different populations, we're going to get diverse people, and so we currently we have two individuals, two young children who are in a wheelchair's, and getting to and from the learning community has been a major challenge. The parents have to almost take the wheelchair completely apart and then put the wheelchair in sections into our van. I want to uphold the dignity of those children and families as they come to our centers. So we don't have an accessible vehicle to be able to transport those individuals to and from our centers, and I can only imagine that this won't be the last time that we have people with disabilities. So I want to trade our van in to get another van with a lift on it so we can better support the community, and we could be here, be president, and support individuals with disabilities. So be on the lookout for that. Community engagement. Our building continues to serve as a vibrant hub. This month, Omaha Public Schools utilized our facilities for training. We had a lot of teachers for orientation, before school started. Superintendent Matt Ray came in, and he talked to all of his staff. I just thought it was an awesome opportunity for OPS and the learning community to collaborate, which has never happened with the learning community before. So it shows that the school systems are trusting in the learning community. Our rentals have been going up. People and organizations are utilizing the learning community as a community space, really a community center, which we want that to happen because them coming into the buildings and seeing our facilities, that will attract people from the community who really need our services. All right, to continue on with our fiscal update. Andrew and Tim will do that later, but I am extremely happy to have this audit over with. Our fiscal budget for 2026 is coming and he's working on that. One major highlight the ESU's, if you guys are not aware, the educational support unit, they are the ones who are responsible for our research and evaluation budget, which is usually around \$715,000 a year. Due to legislation the governor has cut some of their money, so they're going to cut some of our money. I don't know how much that is because the valuations have not come in yet, but I had a conversation with the CEO of the learning community Coordinating Council, and she was unaware of how much that was going to be as well. But I think we're sitting in a pretty good spot fiscally to be able to cover any short falls for that right now. Legislative and community engagement. Several senators are hosting fundraisers and different ways to engage with the community. Up until this point, I have not been aware of any of that. Our lobbyists Kent Roger sends the report, and he just started putting some of those things on our report. I have Kent Roger's contract, and looking at his contract, the learning community has just never required much of our lobbyists to get things done. We haven't required much of our lobbyist, just be visible during the sessions. Since I've talked with him, he's going to contribute a legislative strategy to me and my team and I'll share that with the council as well, because there are some events that the senators have, I think that maybe in your area and will be a good idea just for you guys to attend and for the senators in our districts to know your name and know who you are. And so I would love your support in those areas. I will continue that as I get those invites, I will shoot those out to the

council. And if you can attend, let me know or call and let Kione know and she'll make arrangements accordingly. Also, we are going to have some tours and I want to make it a big thing with when the senators come we will tour of the North Center then get on our minibus and tour the South Center. Then bring them back here, and have a reception for the senators that represent our areas, hopefully we can get that done before the legislative session starts.

4. **Treasure Report:** TH-You notice on the submitted budget we are 91% of the way through the year. I anticipate by this time next month we should be closer to 100%.

5. **Legal Counsel:** N/A

6. **Foundation:** MH-Well, there's some disappointing news. I was very optimistic about the children and Family's foundation and a proposal we've been working on with them. But as you know, there's been a lot of unknown factors that are going on in the world as of right now. They found a slot that we thought we could apply for, but it turned out that if we applied in that area, we'd be in direct competition with OPS, which they already had in place, and there is a regional component of that. We didn't want to be in a position where we were competing with OPS. We're moving on to a new strategy, and we're going to start meeting with some major philanthropy folks here locally and see if we can make up some of that difference.

4. **Consent Agenda:**

Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on in the same motion.

- a. Minutes of June 26, 2025, meeting of the Council.
- b. Treasurer's Report - August 2025
- c. Upon recommendation of the ELD Subcommittee, motion to authorize the CEO to fund the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC)'s Collective Impact Plan Evaluation Initiative, a component of the Community Achievement Plan as a cost reimbursable contract not to exceed \$75,000 over three years (\$25,000 annually) for FY 2025/2026, FY 2026/2027, FY 2027/2028 from the Elementary Learning Center Fund budget. Current and future approval is contingent upon Council approval of authorization of the elementary levy and the 2025/2026 fiscal year, 2026/2027, 2027/2028, and 2028/2029 fiscal years' budgets for the Learning Community.
- d. Upon recommendation of the ELD Subcommittee, motion to authorize the CEO to fund the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC)'s Attendance Improvement Initiative, a component of the Community Achievement Plan as a cost reimbursable contract not to exceed \$75,000 over three years (\$25,000 annually) for FY 2025/2026, FY 2026/2027, FY 2027/2028 from the Elementary Learning Center Fund budget. Current and future approval is contingent upon Council approval of authorization of the elementary levy and the 2025/2026 fiscal year, 2026/2027, 2027/2028, and 2028/2029 fiscal years' budgets for

the Learning Community.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda as presented.

First: Shelton Second: Bloom

Discussion:

Moved to vote: Yes X No _____ Abstain _____

Motion: passed X failed _____

VI. Subcommittee Reports:

- a. **Elementary, Learning, and Diversity (ELD) subcommittee:** *IL-We had several topics of conversation and the biggest one is we're looking at a proposal for our partner that we will be presenting to the rest of the guys and there wasn't anything to getting to vote on because we had already discussed the proposal from the BECI, which was presented here in June, so that's our report.*
- b. **Budget, Finance, and Audit subcommittee:** *AK- I'll go over the audit first. It's not final, but we did have our exit conference with the state auditors. They have to send it back to us by the end of this month. I guess the response is back, but we had five findings. first finding I would say is due to our year in financials because of the accounting software that was broken the last year. As you all know, between when the previous findings, our director left, so when I got in, something was broken in the Sage system. And so for me to complete our year in financials, I couldn't choose the older records, I had to build it all from scratch. one of the most previous findings was checks that were written end of August, 2023 Cashed September 2023 were double counted. The second finding here is lack of documentation. That's what most of these finding are. But this first one about lack of documentation is when expenses were approved. But there was no detail that the BFA committee actually voted on it to say that it's supposed to be approved. They didn't think that they weren't approved, or that they weren't discussed. They were even discussed here in the general council, but there was no record of it. So it was basically a lack of documentation. The one that I disagreed was the finding of stable gray. We did a three-month prepayment, which was above \$15,000, which is what our old accountant financed for. policy and procedures states that over \$15,000, we need to have a bid. But because it was three months' worth, we did not go out and get a bid. So it was one of the ones I did a partial disagreement on. Another Finding was when the CEO the chair or council members out for a meals. Also, our welcome lunch to welcome our coworkers. for going to work with. Yeah. We're going to try to, what are we do, travel, we have to find the rate of the GSA from the government website. The rate that the government, states for each single ZIP code, like for Omaha, I doing \$150 per night, Atlanta has \$100 days, stuff like that. Basically, we did a hotel that was \$231 a night rather than \$180 a night. I was arguing that we even though it was above the GSA rate the*

circumstances made sense. They understand if it goes above the GSA rate for two reasons. First, see if you can book the hotel where the conference is held at, they will waive any findings because they know maybe you're not having to pay for a car. so basically we will show that we did a Google search for other hotels in the area and document that the rate at other hotels is the same as the hotel the conference is being held. That's all this documentation. We had 11 findings last year and only five this year. I think it's a pretty good success of five, with having the accounting system broken. So, next month, we should be on your calendars, but we have to hold two budget meetings prior to voting on it, and last year, we met an hour before our regular schedule at the meeting. So instead of being 6 o'clock, next month the September will be at 5 o'clock.

- c. **Legislative and Policy subcommittee:** *SB-For the past couple months, we've met several times, specifically to look at our Duty, state charter for the Learning community. We determined that over the course of those meetings that there are a few things that outdated and one of the things that we discovered, that is probably most pressing to change, and this is a concern for Gerald was, we're capped to a 10% spending limit for salary, essentially, which we are able to sort of get around, by using contracting employees, but discussing potentially going to state legislature to get a charter change. To get old legislation out of there, we want to be bulletproof, so making sure we kind of can allocate more funds for staffing so we can reach more families. It's kind of a goal here. We did talk to Kent about that and he mentioned that not much as getting out of the state education committee right now, so we recommend probably sit for at least a little bit. We will figure out how we want to present this, what we're asking for And to that point, Gerald had Kent kind of alluded to coming up with a game plan for how are we going to reach out to Senators, to start forming new relationships. So at the time that we do go to ask for something, people know who we are, they're comfortable with us, they know what we do. So those are kind of the fruits of that. That was the big piece, but there's a lot of old language in there that is no longer relevant and it wasn't taken out in 2017 updates.*
- d. **Administration and Personnel subcommittee:** *SB-This past month we reviewed the policy. There was no changes we could make to it at the time, we will continue our handbook review. By the end of the year, we should be through the handbook. This was just dress code, essentially reviewing that wording.*

DB- I've got a question. Why are we reviewing ice policy? We're nonpartisan, that should not be anything that we have anything to do if we are a nonpartisan organization. ICE is a government agency, performing. It's duty. We should have nothing to do with it. If they come knocking at the door, It's their job.

SB-Right, but the employees need to know what to do, and that's what this policy did.

-Well it did a little more than that, apparently based on the emails I read. So we need to come up with some much more rigid things that we can and can't do, because we definitely cannot do some of the things that were in our last email about it. That's ultimately, what they need to do is allow ICE to do their job and to move out of their way. It is a government agency, it's a federal

agency, it's mandated by the federal government, interfering with it is a felony. We should not have anything to do with it except the same thing you do with a police officer, you let them in the building and let them do their job.

JT-I don't think anybody's advocating for interfering, though.

DB-Well, if you read email, it kind of halfheartedly hints at it, closing the building down and allow people to stay in the building, is kind of interfering if the people stay in the building or not is legal.

SS-I wasn't there, but thank you both for your comments. Is there any other theme going wrong with that?

DB-Actually, you should not be overriding what I'm saying. It's my comment. It was mine to make. It's not yours, You cannot override what I want to say. But you did. You just interrupted me, and you were overriding it. Let me finish my comment. Well, that will be when I stop talking, not when you start talking right through the middle of me. But that being said, I'm done now. Thank you.

-LM I just wanted to add that we Finish doing our performance evaluations which were wrapped up with our employees, Nayeli and her team worked really hard with the One world, the Learning community north, to be sure that they were able to go over their performance for the last year, they were able to create goals with those employees and then talk about their increases for the following fiscal year. one of the things I want to add to from an HR perspective is that we are the parent company of one world, they manage our employees from an HR perspective, but we handle all of the programming for those employees. And so while they handled the HR, we want to make sure that we're partnering with them, to make sure that there aren't any issues on things, and make sure that we can support that center. But then also collaborate with them while we recruit, ect. One world and learned community are going to continue to meet quarterly. Myself and Gerald will meet with the CEO and the HR director, quarterly to talk about all things learning community. So we can strengthen that partnership. And so that we can show a united front, I'm super excited about that. lastly, we will give more information about this, but we have a holiday party. We had one last year. I was on maternity leave. But super excited to be working with our employee engagement Committee as they put together the details for the holiday party this year. So, in September, our committee will be sending out save the date so that we can invite you all to that holiday party.

-Do the cameras have audio to.

-They don't. But my hope is, is that for the community room and our child learning areas that we can add that option.

-Then watching it like 24 hours, who has access to it? How is it recorded?

-So It just records up to 30 days of footage.

-Is it on a basic machine or is it actually on our server, on the computer?

-It's on a basic machine. And so we can log in there and look, I have access to it. Gerald has access to it, and then our Programming director has access to it.

-. Is there a reason why we don't have that offsite storage?

-We haven't thought that far.

-Maybe that's a conversation you like to have.

VII. **Programming Update:**

- a. Center Updates- *We are you sharing a few pictures of what is happening. Summer camp ended. We had a really successful summer family camp. I don't know if you all remember that we did in July. And then this month of August has been looking more about the recruitment. We had at the North Center our back to school bash here on site, we had over 300 participants come and joined that got some backpacks, Tanya brought in some cheerleaders that were welcoming in the kids as they were coming in, and then the family's could invite a neighbor that may have a younger kid that live in the neighborhood to come and experience so that it will be a recruitment opportunity as well. In the picture, you also see some of the learning opportunities that we had with the kids, as parents were coming in to register for the program and sign up for their classes with Metro, and then in the middle, you see through a proposal that Miss. Monica was able to secure for us. They did a book stories and creativity with the Nebraska humanities, where they had some backpacks that the families were able to take with them and do some literacy initiatives. So as you see, this Monica's already thinking about how the best of support our community, so that was very exciting. At the South Center, it also looked similar because this is the time August is the time of recruitment and enrolling the families and getting them all on board, you see pictures of an open house and that was open to the whole community. We invited our partners that usually common present classes for them to invite families, that they are currently serving, so for them to come check out the centers, learn about our programs and use that as a recruitment opportunity. We also had a site visit from one of our partner schools that came to check out the space. We had an ice cream social to finish the end of the summer for the families. Usually once a year, we partner with Omaha public libraries to do a summer reading program and the way that we encourage our families is that as they're logging in their hours, if they bring it in at the end of the semester, they get participate with us at the ice Cream Social, and we had just pictures about the open house. Classes are filling up and now we're going to start back on the day to day programming. Thank you.*
- b. Cap Plan- *I sent out a copy of our current cap plan. We have been working with Shirley Varges on just making sure that we get all the updates and from our partners, the BECI, Moec, everybody's working hard on that, and then information from both of our centers. So we are well on our way. Just wanted to give you all kind of a quick timeline, we'll get an updated draft to you by October or November. We are looking at presenting a new draft to all of you and then we're going to be seeking approval from the council in January. So just a brief kind of timeline on what we're looking at. Final approval will be from the state in February. So that's kind of where we're at with Cap.*

VIII. **New Business:**

Action Item: Motion to authorize the CEO to approve and sign the D2 Center proposal as a cost reimbursable contract not to exceed \$280,000 per year for FY25-26 and FY 26-27 from the

Elementary Learning Center Fund budget. Current and future approval is contingent upon Council approval of authorization of the elementary levy and the 2025/2026 fiscal year, 2026/2027 fiscal years' budgets for the Learning Community.

First: Johnson Second: Taylor

Discussion:

Moved to vote: Yes X No _____ Abstain _____

Motion: passed X failed _____

OICH Tech Workforce Innovation Initiative Proposal

Action Item: *Upon recommendation of the ELD Subcommittee, motion to authorize the CEO to enter into an agreement with Omaha Innovation Connection Hub to fund the OICH Tech Workforce Innovation Initiative, as a cost reimbursable contract not to exceed \$250,000 per year for FY 25-26, FY 26-27, FY 27-28 from the Elementary Learning Center Fund budget. Current and future approval is contingent upon Council approval of authorization of the elementary levy and the 2025/2026 fiscal year, 2026/2027, and 2027/2028, fiscal years' budgets for the Learning Community.*

First: Bloom Second: Brady

Discussion:

Moved to vote: Yes X No _____ Abstain _____

Motion: passed X failed _____

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at: 7:17 PM

Next Meeting – September 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. – Learning Community Center of North Omaha, 1612 North 24th Street, Omaha, NE 68110

***Executive/Closed Session:** If, during the meeting, a discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the council will conduct a closed meeting per the Nebraska Open Meetings Law.

****Sequence of Agenda:** The sequence of agenda topics is subject to change at the discretion of the Council. Please arrive at the beginning of the meeting.

UPCOMING LEARNING COMMUNITY EVENTS:

LC Coordinating Council

September 18, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Learning Community Center of North Omaha,
1612 N. 24th Street, Omaha, NE 68110

November's meeting has been moved to November 19th.

Subcouncil #1	TBA
Subcouncil #2	TBA
Subcouncil #3	TBA
Subcouncil #4	TBA
Subcouncil #5	TBA
Subcouncil #6	TBA

HANDOUTS TO ACCOMPANY THIS AGENDA ARE AS FOLLOWS

- CEO Report
- Budget Proposal for OICH & Final Application
- MOEC Agreement
- MOEC Impact Plan
- MOEC Vision, Goals & Metrics
- D2C 25-26 Proposal