

Learning Community Coordinating Council Meeting Agenda

September 18, 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 September 18, 2025, at ____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 September 12, 2025, and on the Learning Community Website.
- d. **Council Roll Call:** Present: _____ Excused: _____ Absent: _____ Quorum: _____
- 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:
- 2. Chair Report:
- 3. CEO Report:
- 4. Treasurer Report:
- 5. Legal Counsel:
- 6. Foundation:

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 August 21, 2025, meeting of the Council.
- b. Treasurer's Report - September 2025

Motion: To approve the consent agenda as presented.

First: ____ Second: ____

Discussion:

Moved to vote: Yes ____ No ____ Abstain ____

Motion: passed ____ failed ____

VI. Subcommittee Reports:

- a. Elementary, Learning, and Diversity (ELD) subcommittee:
- b. Budget, Finance, and Audit subcommittee: *The BFA committee recommended the budget in a formal capacity*
- c. Legislative and Policy subcommittee:
- d. Administration and Personnel subcommittee:

VII. Programming Update:

- a. Center Updates
- b. Superintendent's Plan
- c. Director of Strategic Initiatives

VIII. New Business:

a. Action Item: 2025 -2026 Budget

Motion to approve the General Fund Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year in the amount of \$470,000 calling for a total property tax requirement of \$0 and to recommend the same to the full Council at the next Learning Community Coordinating Council meeting.

Motion to approve the Capital Projects Fund Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year in the amount of \$874,000 calling for a property tax requirement of \$1,281,324 plus a 1% County Treasurer Collection Fee of \$12,943 for a total property tax requirement of \$1,294,266.

Motion to approve the Elementary Learning Center Fund Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year in the amount of \$1,021,993 calling for a property tax requirement of \$12,891,773 plus a 1% County Treasurer Collection Fee of \$130,220 for a total property tax requirement of \$13,021,993 and to recommend the same to the full Council at the next Learning Community Coordinating Council meeting.

Motion to approve the Research & Evaluation Fund Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year in the amount of \$762,542 calling for a total property tax requirement of \$0.

Motion: To approve the Action Items as presented.

First: ____ Second: ____

Discussion:

Moved to vote: Yes ____ No ____ Abstain ____

Motion: passed ____ failed ____

Action Item: 2026 Tax Year Levy Resolutions

Motion to adopt of the following resolutions.

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute § 77-1601.02 provides that the Coordinating Council, as the governing body of the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties (the "Learning Community"), passes by majority vote a resolution setting the Learning Community's tax requests for its Capital Projects Levy and Elementary Learning Center Levy after holding a public hearing for the purpose of discussing and approving or modifying the Learning Community's tax requests for the 2025-2026 fiscal year;

WHEREAS, such special public hearing was held on September 18, 2025 as required by law to receive and consider public comments regarding the proposed property tax requests of the Learning Community's Capital Projects Levy and Elementary Learning Center Levy, notice of the special public hearing having been given in accordance with Nebraska Revised Statute § 77-1601.02;

WHEREAS, the total assessed value of the property differs from the previous year's total assessed value by 6.56%; the tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as the previous year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property would be \$0.014586345 per \$100 of assessed value; the Learning Community proposes to adopt a property tax requests that will cause its tax rate to be \$0.013688323 per \$100 of assessed value for the 2025-2026 fiscal year;

WHEREAS, based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of Learning Community will increase last year's budget by 4.58% percent; and

WHEREAS, the Coordinating Council, after having reviewed the Learning Community's tax requests for each said levy, and after public consideration of the matter, has determined that the tax requests as listed below are necessary in order to carry out the functions of the Learning Community, as determined by the Coordinating Council for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Motion: To approve the Action Items as presented.

First: ____ Second: ____

Discussion:

Moved to vote: Yes ____ No ____ Abstain ____

Motion: passed ____ failed ____

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at: ____

Next Meeting – October 16, 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	October 16, 2025, 6:00 p.m. Learning Community Center of North Omaha, 1612 N. 24 th Street, Omaha, NE 68110 <i>November's meeting has been moved to November 19th.</i>
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
- Treasure Report

- August Mins
- LCCNO Report
- LCCSO Report

1612 North 24th Street Omaha,
Nebraska 68110
Phone: 402.905.9984

Chief Executive Officer

Gerald M. Kuhn, II

**COORDINATING
COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Chair

Sharnell Shelton

Vice Chair

Mark Hoeger

Secretary

Cindy Johnson

Treasurer

Tim Hall

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Achievement Subcouncil 1

David Preston, Jr

Cindy Johnson

Achievement Subcouncil 2

Carol Hahn

Sharnelle Shelton

Achievement Subcouncil 3

Mark Hoeger

Warren Whitted, Jr

Achievement Subcouncil 4

Raquel Dixon Rodriguez

Stephen Bloom

Achievement Subcouncil 5

Douglas Brady

Tonya Ward

Achievement Subcouncil 6

Jason Taylor

Tim Hall

MISSION

*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.*

VISION

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

LearningCommunityDS.org

September 15, 2025

Finance

The budget for Fiscal Year 2026 has been thoroughly reviewed and discussed across several subcommittee meetings. I am proud of this year's budget, which underscores our continued partnership with an expanding network of community organizations dedicated to serving the residents of Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

Operations

As we start a new fiscal year, I met with the leaders of both centers to share my vision and set expectations for their ongoing operations. They presented their recruitment strategies focused on diversifying our participant base, an essential step toward enhancing our community impact.

We are excited to announce the rollout of our Workforce Innovation Classes. These programs are designed to prepare participants for careers in trades, with the aim of enabling parents to secure stable, single-job employment—allowing for more quality time at home with their children. In addition, we are in the process of obtaining childcare certification for the North Center through the State of Nebraska. While plans are in place to certify both centers, we are prioritizing the North Center as the initial step.

The Director of Strategic Initiatives is spearheading efforts to re-establish a Community Advisory Board. This body will advise our team on community needs across the entire Douglas and Sarpy County area, ensuring our programs remain relevant and effective.

Legislative

Our legislative strategy for Fiscal Year 2026 has been finalized in collaboration with our lobbyist from Rogert and Associates. We will present and discuss this strategy in more detail during the upcoming legislative report.

Gerald "Mike" Kuhn II
Chief Executive Officer

Revenue	Total	\$ 2,747,596.89
Date Posted	Entity	Amount
08/15/2025	DEPOSIT	\$200.00
08/19/2025	DEPOSIT	\$136.48
08/14/2025	TR DC 2025 DOUG	\$1,913,452.68
08/15/2025	AchBatch SARPY C	\$833,807.73

	Total	Total
Transfers	\$ 1,593,162.23	\$ 1,452,518.68

Outstanding Checks

[illegible]

Beginning Balance	\$ 250,000.00	General Fund Checking
Ending Balance	\$ 250,000.00	

[illegible]

Beginning Balan	\$	24,863,171.28		\$	25,050,979.89
Ending Balance	\$	25,050,979.89	ELC ICS Account		

Revenue	Total	\$	60,851.56	Expenses	Total	\$	-	Transfers	Total	\$	1,593,162.23	Total	\$	1,466,205.18
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Date Posted	Entity	Amount
7/31/2025	Interest Capitalization	\$ 60,851.56

Date Posted	Check Number	Entity	Amount
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Date Posted	To	From	Description
8/1/2025		\$ 47,810.64	Withdrawal
8/4/2025		\$ 4,836.54	Withdrawal
8/5/2025		\$ 434.14	Withdrawal
8/6/2025		\$ 14,272.40	Withdrawal
8/8/2025		\$ 119.98	Withdrawal
8/11/2025		\$ 1,074.86	Withdrawal
8/12/2025		\$ 4,057.33	Withdrawal
8/13/2025		\$ 12,609.05	Withdrawal
8/14/2025		\$ 1,030.28	Withdrawal
8/15/2025	\$ 759,776.64		Deposit
8/18/2025	\$ 833,385.59		Deposit
8/19/2025		\$ 2,104.00	Withdrawal
8/20/2025		\$ 3,773.57	Withdrawal
8/21/2025		\$ 948.42	Withdrawal
8/25/2025		\$ 1,174,359.72	Withdrawal
8/27/2025		\$ 25,296.39	Withdrawal
8/28/2025		\$ 95,073.05	Withdrawal
8/29/2025		\$ 78,404.81	Withdrawal

Beginning B \$ 1,057,632.52 \$ 1,284,448.92
Ending Bala \$ 1,284,448.92 Capital Projects ICS

Revenue	Total	\$ 275,844.31	Expenses	Total	\$ -	Transfers	Total	Total	
							\$ -	\$ 49,027.91	
Date Posted	Entity	Amount	Date Posted	Check Number	Entity	Amount	Date Posted	To	From Description
7/31/2025	Interest Capitalizat	\$ 2,805.91					8/11/2025		\$ 49,027.91 Withdrawal
8/15/2025	Deposit	\$ 190,142.05							
8/18/2025	Deposit	\$ 82,896.35							

\$ 251,929.52

	Total	Total
Transfers	\$ -	\$ 477.06

Expenses	Total	\$	-
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Transfers	\$	-	\$	477.06
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Date Posted	Check Number	Entity	Amount
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Date Posted	To	From	Description
8/16/2025		\$477.06	Withdrawal
			Withdrawal
			Withdrawal

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



Parent University – LCCNO

Fall 2025 Report

Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy County

Program Requirements

Parent University is a family-focused educational initiative that supports parents and caregivers as their child's first and most important teacher.

To participate, families must:

- ✓ Be parents or caregivers of children (primarily birth to age 4) residing within Subcouncil #2 boundaries in North Omaha.
 - ✓ Commit to active enrollment in adult education and/or workforce development courses.
 - ✓ Commit to attend parenting classes.
 - ✓ Commit to 2-home visits a month
- Participate in Parent and Child Together (PACT) activities and family engagement events.
- Partner in assessments, goal setting, and coaching.

To register, families must:

Call, email, reach out through our website, or walk in.

An intake will be scheduled with an Educational Navigator.

Participate in Placement Tests for ESL classes.

Current Enrollment & Participation

- Adult Participants Today: 92 (91 in ESL and 1 in GED)
- Adult Participants Starting Next Week when the following Electives Start: String Sprouts, TKO/5, and Thriving Sisters: 108
(*this number is subject to increase as participants may still enroll in these electives up to and after the start date and two new courses begin in October: Red Recruiter Career Development and NorthStar Digital Literacy*)
- Participants' Children Today: 180
- Participants' Children: 195
(*this number is subject to increase as participants may still enroll in these electives up to and after the start date and two new courses begin in October: Red Recruiter Career Development and NorthStar Digital Literacy*)

Fall 2025 Classes Offered

- Parenting Education
 - Circle of Security in English and Spanish
 - Healthy Boundaries-In English for the Fall
- Early Childhood Development & School Readiness Workshops
- Adult Education
 - ESL

- GED
- Workforce Development
 - Red Recruiter Career Development and Workforce Readiness
 - NorthStar Digital Literacy
 - Whispering Roots Culinary Advancement Programs
- Adult Electives:
 - Thrive Sisters Circle
 - TKO/5
- Early Childhood Education
 - Creative Curriculum

Supporting Children's Literacy and School Readiness

Creative Curriculum Implementation

Parent University is currently training staff and implementing Creative Curriculum, a research-based early childhood program that promotes school readiness through play-based learning.

Research shows Creative Curriculum:

- Strengthens literacy, language, and math foundations
- Builds cultural responsiveness by integrating family experiences into learning
- Improves school readiness and social-emotional development

Literacy-Focused PACT Activities

PACT time integrates literacy in family-friendly, hands-on ways:

- Shared Reading and Storytelling with culturally relevant books
- Journaling and Home Literacy Kits to extend classroom learning
- Family Engagement Nights such as our Fall Festival, Boo Bash, Winter Wonderland, and more that all combining early literacy activities with music and hands on activities.
- Monthly Literacy PACT Events (January–June 2026): One literacy-focused PACT activity is scheduled each month. These will reflect best practices from the Foundations in Family Engagement Training and Family Workshops to Go sessions that Parent University staff will complete with the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) in October and November 2025.

Literacy-Focused Home Visits

Using MEFS and KIPS Data to Guide Instruction

Educational Navigators conduct home visits with families to directly support school readiness. During these visits, they administer two evidence-based evaluations:

- MEFS (Minnesota Executive Function Scale): A direct assessment of young children's executive function skills — including attention, memory, and self-control. Research shows these abilities are critical predictors of later academic achievement and literacy development.

- KIPS (Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale): An observational tool that evaluates the quality of parent-child interactions. It measures key dimensions such as sensitivity, responsiveness, and how parents foster their child's learning during daily routines.

By using both MEFS and KIPS, Navigators gain a holistic understanding of a child's cognitive and social-emotional development and the parent's role in supporting learning at home.

Alignment with Growing Great Kids Curriculum

Insights from these evaluations are directly tied into Growing Great Kids (GGK), a strengths-based home visiting curriculum that provides structured activities for building parenting skills, enhancing attachment, and promoting early literacy and school readiness.

Growing Great Kids includes:

- Practical Activities: Hands-on games, songs, and guided routines families can use to support literacy, language, and social skills.
- Developmental Guidance: Tips and activities aligned to each child's age and stage, helping parents understand milestones.
- Family Strengths Focus: Encourages parents to build on what they already do well, while providing strategies to strengthen areas identified through MEFS and KIPS data.

How They Work Together

Together, MEFS and KIPS evaluations and the GGK curriculum form a powerful loop of support:

1. Assessment: MEFS and KIPS provide data on children's developmental progress and parenting interactions.
2. Application: Navigators use this information to select GGK activities most relevant to each family's needs.
3. Practice: Parents practice literacy-rich and school-readiness activities in the home with Navigator guidance.
4. Progress: Data is revisited in future visits to track growth and adjust supports.

This integrated approach ensures that home visits are not only supportive, but also data-driven, personalized, and focused on early literacy and readiness for school success.

Partnerships

Parent University-LCCNO is deeply connected to a wide network of partners, including:

Education Partners: Omaha Public Schools, Metro Community College; Creighton University; UNO (Psychology, Teacher Education, Undergraduate Admission); UNMC; University of Nebraska–Lincoln; Buffett Early Childhood Institute.

Community & Family Services: Aspen Institute Ascend Network, Cradle to Career,

National Center for Families Learning, National Centers for Families Engagement, Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition, Project Harmony, Salvation Army, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Pink Lotus Project, Omaha Children's Museum, Ready Nationwide, Red Recruiter Career Strategies, Thriving Sisters – Mom Power, Together.

Moving Forward-Current Program Updates

As Parent University-LCCNO continues to grow, several initiatives are already underway that reflect our commitment to strengthening families and advancing school readiness. These efforts are aligned with the Learning Community's strategic plan and are designed to ensure program quality, sustainability, and impact.

We are expanding workforce development pathways through partnerships with Metro Community College, Red Recruiter, and Nebraska Workforce. These collaborations will connect families with training programs, certifications, and career advancement opportunities that build long-term economic stability.

In particular, the partnership with the Nebraska Workforce is designed to provide families with sustainable career pathways while addressing barriers such as language, trust, and economic challenges. Workforce readiness is recognized as a key lever for family stability and mobility.

Through this collaboration, families will gain access to:

- Employment readiness supports the federally accredited Nebraska Workforce training system.
- Clear entry requirements and support to individuals as needed.
- Opportunities in transitional fields such as maintenance, production line, construction, and trades — with targeted recruitment to connect participants to viable careers.

Together, Parent University and Nebraska Workforce are planning informational sessions and a Trade Fair in November 2025, where families can explore different career options. Families will complete interest forms to guide future training opportunities and recruitment. Additionally, Nebraska Workforce will provide a space for an on-site representative of Parent University-LCCNO two days each week to ensure consistent support and connection for current and future participants.

This partnership directly supports Parent University's strategic goal of expanding workforce development pathways while staying true to the 2Gen model — ensuring that when parents thrive, children succeed.

Another significant milestone has been the completion and rollout of the Operations Manual. All staff have received training in its content, ensuring consistent practices, compliance with regulations, and a shared understanding of policies and procedures across the organization.

Looking ahead, Parent University-LCCNO is focused on strengthening literacy outcomes, expanding workforce readiness, and deepening partnerships with higher education, health, and community service providers. These efforts will continue to drive innovation, align with best practices, and ensure the program meets the evolving needs of the families it serves.

LEARNING COMMUNITY CENTER OF SOUTH OMAHA

7/1/2025-9/17/2025

General Info

- Hosted dinosaur-themed family summer camps in July at both the LCCSO and at Bancroft Elementary. Each family was able to attend camp for one week. The Omaha Children's Museum, Keep Omaha Beautiful, and Stomp, Chomp, and Roar visited our center for dinosaur-related activities
- Held multiple enrollment and orientation events to onboard new families in July, August, and September. Recruited at Back-to-School events across 11 Elementary Schools in Subcouncil 5. Every family with young children was invited to enroll in programming such as parenting classes and workshops, workforce development, and computer classes.
- Ice cream socials were hosted at both LCCSO and Bancroft to celebrate all families who participated in the Omaha Public Library's Summer Reading Program
- In early August, the entire staff from Indian Hill Elementary toured the center to learn more about services and partnership opportunities.
- OneWorld recognized and celebrated seven LCCSO staff members with 5-10 years of service and five staff members who have 10+ years of service.
- The team hosted an Open House for the general public. Each team created interactive activities and shared information with families and community members who toured the center.
- LCCSO staff referred five preschool-aged children to the Omaha Doorly Zoo School.
- Our Kindergarten Readiness program was offered at Bancroft Elementary for parents and kids about to enter Kindergarten in both English and Spanish.
- Families were provided transportation to the Opera Outdoors event in Turner Park (reimbursed by Opera Omaha)
- Welcomed Cruz Cabrera (a former manager who moved out of state) back to the LCCSO as Family Engagement Manager.
- Participated in the Kids Count survey with Canopy South to support data collection and policy advocacy for children.
- LCCSO continues as a Nebraska Diaper Bank location, and each participant with children needing diapers are offered free diaper packs once a month.
- Evening programming continues to be popular. We offer programming M-Th from 5:00pm-8:00 p.m. Classes include Circle of Security, ESL, GED class, and a 6-week Prime Time Family Reading program. Due to strong demand and limited staffing, we have a waitlist for most of our evening programming, with a few spots left in our GED class..
- Two LCCSO participants by The BRIDGE to facilitate a Community Café program at the LCCSO, enhancing peer-to-peer engagement and leadership.
- The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) awarded OneWorld a small grant to expand parent leadership programming.
- Several members of team marched in the Pride Parade with the Learning Community
- Shared information about LCCSO at OneWorld's department fair, with Mayor Ewing in attendance

Center Programming

The LCCSO offers programming Monday – Thursday from 9 am-12 pm, 12:45 pm - 3:45 pm, and from 5 pm-8 pm. Friday programming is from 9 am-12 pm and 12:45 pm-3:45 pm. Saturday programming is offered at least once a month and lasts between two to six hours.

- Interactive Parent/Child Programming
 - Opera Outdoors in Turner Park with Opera Omaha
 - Scrollathon event at the Joslyn Museum (www.scrollathon.org)
 - Dinosaur-themed family camp at both locations– offered one week to all active families
 - Home visits are scheduled approximately every three to four weeks
 - Prime Time Family Reading Program
 - Parent/child violin classes through Omaha Conservatory of Music for 4 classes of kids
- Parent Programming
 - ESL for Parents: 15 cohorts
 - GED for Parents: 3 cohorts
 - Parent Workshops included:
 - Intro to Finances (Lending Link)
 - Community Café (LCCSO participants hired by The BRIDGE)
 - Bienvenidos mental health program (LCCSO staff with UNMC)
 - OPS 101 (LCCSO staff – former OPS employee)
 - Love & Logic (LCCSO staff)
 - Circle of Security (LCCSO staff and Child Saving Institute) -
 - Nurturing Parenting (LCCSO staff) -
 - Workforce Development (LCCSO staff)
 - Typing Club (LCCSO staff)
 - Digital Literacy classes (LCCSO staff) -
 - Pyramid Model (Child Saving Institute)
 - OneWorld Patient Leadership Group (OW senior leader)
 - Civics and Literacy (LCCSO staff)
- Child Learning programming during parent classes
 - Regular programming for children aged 0-5
 - Lil' Rosies through the Rose Theater twice a month
 - Opera Omaha child-focused programming
- Community Childcare training/coaching for South Omaha childcare providers
 - 16 childcare provider receiving weekday coaching and Saturday trainings/collaboration meetings

Community Meetings

- The BRIDGE Resource Meeting
- OPS principal / Early Childhood Coordinator to discuss future satellite site
- South Omaha Community Care Council Meeting
- Maternal Child Advisory Board, Visiting Nurse Association
- OPS Partner Resource Team meeting at the TAC building
- North/South Centers Quarterly Meeting

Staff Training

- Active Supervision of Children Training (7 Child Learning staff)
- Mondo Method Training at ESU 3 (Child Learning staff)
- New Supervisor training (1 supervisor, 1 managers)
- CPR (new Child Learning staff)
- Leadership Growth Series in July, August and September (Managers/Supervisors)
- Bracken Training and MEFS training with MMI

- Burlington English training (new ESL Instructors)
- STAN (database) training for new staff, refresher for existing staff
- Facilitating Attuned Interactions (FAN) (3 Educational Navigators)
- Growing Great Kids Curriculum training (new Educational Navigators and new Family Engagement Manager)
- Home Visiting Safety Training at Project Harmony (New Navigators/Manager)
- NCFL parent leadership curriculum training (4 staff)
- Parents Interacting with Infants (PIWI) Booster Training (1 Manager)
- Hands that Sing and Count training (2 Child Learning staff)

Success Stories

When I began visiting Karla's family, one of the first things she shared with me was that her oldest son (Liam) was struggling with reading comprehension. The school was very insistent about it, and Karla mentioned different strategies she used to try to help him, but he wasn't showing any progress. I shared a reading calendar with her, and Karla decided to establish a routine so that both Leah and brother Liam would have daily reading time. Karla began implementing these strategies in May 2025. For subsequent visits, she asked me for more calendars. Over the summer, the whole family signed up for the library's reading challenge and successfully completed it. During the August visit, Karla told me that Leah was a little unfocused during reading. She said she would try some new strategies with her. I shared some recommendations with her.

During our last visit in September, Karla shared with me that Leah has been improving significantly in her concentration while reading and has developed a notable improvement in her language, and that she now asks about reading time. Additionally, at school, Liam's teacher asked him what he had been doing to improve his reading comprehension because they had noticed a significant growth in that area. He commented on his family routine and reading calendars. His teacher asked him to share a copy with her so she could share it with his classmates. The teacher congratulated him and encouraged him to continue working on his reading. Karla mentions that now, for them, reading is a time of family connection that they look forward to every day.

Another notable achievement for Karla is her significant improvement in her own reading comprehension. From her last CASAS exam to now, she has improved her reading level by 18 points.

Without a doubt, the family's dedication and motivation to learn is incredible, and a clear example is that reading time strengthens learning and family ties.

Submitted by Peer Navigator Belem Moreno



Leah and Liam