

Nebraska Workforce Development Board-Special Meeting

Approved Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 4, 2026, 2:00p-4:00p

Virtually at <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/21262952732514?p=fK4hnN0CeCUxrXeyCl>

Meeting ID: 212 629 527 325 14

Passcode: bg2fr7b6

and virtually at the American Job Center, American Job Center, 1330 N Street Suite A, Lincoln, Nebraska

<https://dol.nebraska.gov/ReemploymentServices/Training/WIOA/NWDB>

Agenda item 1. Call to Order

Acting Chair Bradley Schroeder (Brad) called to order the meeting of the Nebraska Workforce Development Board (hereafter referred to as the Board) on May 4, 2026, at approximately 2:00 p.m. virtually on Microsoft Teams and at the American Job Center, 1330 N Street, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68508

Agenda item 2. Roll Call

Brad asked Kelly Flanagan to call roll for purposes of establishing a quorum of the Board. Kelly called roll and advised Brad that quorum was established (13 of 21 Board Members attending).

Board Members *attending*

1. Senator Kathleen Kauth
2. Jim Bulkley
3. Steve Corsi
4. Lindy Foley
5. Michael Geary
6. Tate Lauer
7. Brad Schroeder, Acting Chair
8. Jennifer Sedlacek
9. Keisha Thomas
10. Katie Thurber
11. Paul Turman
12. Lisa Wilson
13. Courtney Wittstruck

Board Members *not attending*

1. Governor Jim Pillen
2. Gary D. Dixon Jr.
3. Joanna Estrada
4. Jim Hansen
5. Don Nordell
6. Sara Riffel
7. Kevin Wetuski
8. Mark Wright

Also attending were the following members of the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) Board support team.

1. Kathy Cedillo, Program Coordinator, Division of Reemployment Services
2. Kelly Flanagan, Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
3. Stephanie Geery-Zink, Policy and Grants Management Coordinator, Division of Reemployment Services
4. Joel Green, Agency Legal Counsel, Office of the General Counsel
5. Joseph Tisko, Program Analyst, Division of Reemployment Services
6. Gerald Pankonin, Attorney, Office of the General Counsel
7. Isaac Hill, Labor Division Director, Office of the General Counsel

8. Scott Hunzaker, Labor Division Director, Division of Labor Market Information
9. Dennis Forgrave, Administrative Programs Officer, Office of the General Counsel

Agenda item 3. Notice of Publication

Kelly Flanagan announced that public meeting notices were published, in accordance with the [Nebraska Open Meetings Act](#), in the Beatrice Daily Sun, Columbus Telegram, Grand Island Independent, Hastings Tribune, Kearney Hub, Lincoln Journal Star, Norfolk Daily News, North Platte Telegraph, Omaha World-Herald, and Scottsbluff Star-Herald. Kelly announced that public meeting notice was also published on the [State of Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#).

Agenda item 4. Old Business

The Board had no old business to consider.

Agenda item 5. New Business

a. Workforce Pell Implementation

Labor Commissioner Katie Thurber presented information related to Workforce Pell implementation, which goes into effect on July 1, 2026. Commissioner Thurber shared Workforce Pell regulation requirements that the Governor consults with the Workforce Development Board on Workforce Pell policies, practices, and eligible programs, which will be an ongoing process.

Referencing the policy document entitled “Program Eligibility Policies and Application Procedures,” Commissioner Thurber summarized the Program Evaluation Criteria, which are the requirements that programs must meet to be Workforce Pell eligible. Commissioner Thurber discussed the initial occupation list of high-skill, high-wage, and/or in-demand professions. The policy also includes details regarding NDOL Review, Compliance Determination, and Cure Processes.

Commissioner Thurber shared the policy document “Appeal Policy,” which summarizes the Appeals Process if a program is initially rejected from participation in Nebraska’s Workforce Pell program.

Commissioner Thurber summarized the “Monitoring and Compliance Policies,” including Quarterly Reporting Requirements, Renewal and Continued Approval, Value-Added Earnings Compliance, and Loss and Regaining of Eligibility.

Commissioner Thurber shared the “2026-2027 Initial Eligible Occupation and Program List.” This lists all occupations that have been deemed eligible for Workforce Pell in Nebraska. Commissioner Thurber requested the board reach out with suggestions for other professions not covered by this initial list so that they can be considered.

Next, Commissioner Thurber shared the “Tribal Nations” policy document which states that Nebraska Tribal Nations retain full sovereignty over decisions affecting the tribes. They can either go through the Nebraska Workforce Pell Grant application process or develop and establish their own policies and application process for participation.

The policy documents will be posted on the NDOL website at dol.nebraska.gov once finalized.

Agenda item 6. Next meeting of the Board

The next meeting of the Board will take place on Friday, June 12, 2026, from 9 a.m. to noon at the NET Center, 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Agenda item 7. Public comment

Brad opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment.

Agenda item 8. Adjournment

Brad asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board. Senator Kathleen Kauth motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Lisa Wilson seconded the motion. Members of the Board voted on the motion by acclamation vote. The motion carried unanimously. Brad adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:15 p.m.