

North Dakota State Electrical Board Minutes

January 22, 2026 Meeting

The North Dakota State Electrical Board meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Rodney Mayer at the Electrical Board office at 1929 N. Washington St., Ste A-1, Bismarck, North Dakota. Members Present: Rodney Mayer, Jon Hoffman, Jesse Larson, James Brandenburg, Gerald "Poke" Buck, Christina Roemmich. Also Present: James Schmidt, Executive Director; Scott Porsborg, Special Assistant Attorney General; Anna Jellesed; Kyle Leingang, Wood Group; and Adam Kidwell, JATC.

Schmidt added two agenda items (with handouts) to the agenda: 6-month Fiscal Budget, and Professional Services.

Buck made a Motion to approve the consent agenda with the additions. Brandenburg seconds. The Motion passed unanimously. Buck moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from September 24, 2025. Roemmich seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tim Krommenhoek, Schmidt tells the Board an ALJ has been appointed and Porsborg has a prehearing on Jan 26th. Krommenhoek's Journeyman License will expire on March 31st, and he has no continuing education so he would be unable to renew at that time. Krommenhoek tried reciprocating his North Dakota Licenses to Montana. Schmidt talked to Krommenhoek's insurance when a renewal was received in the office and reiterated to the insurance company and to Montana that Krommenhoek cannot contract in North Dakota at this time.

(Janel enters meeting)

Terry Neuberger, Janel tells the Board about its request for invoices and estimates, which has been reviewed and completed. Outstanding certs have been reassigned. 4 certs were Krommenhoek's and then reassigned to Neuberger that are outstanding. Neuberger has been good to work with and communicative.

Felony Applications:

Christopher Wright is from Arkansas and was charged with a class C felony and is on probation until 2029. He is looking to reciprocate his Journeyman license. The Board asks to hear about all the applicants and then discuss.

Joseph Berg is a ND resident and is applying to take his Journeyman exam. Berg was charged with numerous offenses including drug charges. He states he is no longer on probation, and he has been sober for 5 years. He only listed a few felonies on his application but when questioned he disclosed additional felonies.

Blake Lund is a ND resident and is applying to take the Journeyman exam. Lund has numerous charges including theft and burglary. Lund states drugs and alcohol were a problem for him but he is now clean.

Ryan Picotte is looking to reciprocate his Journeyman license from SD. Picotte has numerous charges including Assault and sexual contact with a minor. Picotte is not on parole at this time but does have to register as a sex offender.

Kyle Larson requested to reciprocate his SD Journeyman license. Larson came before the Board in September for his application for apprenticeship in ND. The Board allowed his Apprentice application at that time with discussions being that he would be supervised as an apprentice.

The Board discussed the applicants, their charges, and whether they are rehabilitated. Hoffman makes a motion to deny Wright's application for reciprocation. Buck Seconds. Mayer asks for discussion. The Motion passes unanimously. Mayer asked for discussion on Berg. Hoffman Moves to deny his application due to his dishonesty on disclosing his felonies. Larson Seconds. Motion passes unanimously. The Board discusses Lund. Lund's probation status was discussed. Hoffman makes a Motion to deny his application due to his most recent charge and lack of rehabilitation. Roemmich seconds. Motion passed unanimously. Mayer asks for discussion on Picotte. Larson makes a Motion to deny Picotte's application. Hoffman seconds. Motion passed unanimously. Hoffman makes a Motion to deny Larson's request to reciprocate his SD Journeyman license to ND. With the understanding that Larson may complete his current ND apprenticeship program and take his Journeyman exam at that time. Larson seconds. Mayer asks for discussion. Roemmich talks about his 2017 charge and his rehabilitation status. Discussion happened regarding his sex offender registration status and his pending Motion for Removal in SD. Mayer asks for votes on the Motion- Larson, Buck, Mayer, and Hoffman vote yes, Brandenburg and Roemmich vote no. Motion passes.

NDSEB took a brief recess at 9:38am. NDSEB reconvened at 9:44am.

(Janel leaves meeting.)

Office Space, Schmidt talks about redoing the kitchen area into an office space to accommodate the elevator inspector that will be hired. He also talked about getting another phone line in addition.

Employees, Schmidt tells the Board about Jon Sayler resigning. Jon aired his grievances at that time and Schmidt discussed them with the Board. Past employee, Justin Lill was rehired as Sayler's replacement and work is going fine.

(Tyler Richter with Brady Martz enters the meeting.)

2026 Calendar, Schmidt talks about the small change in the meeting schedule due to the administrative rules hearing and needing to have the adequate meeting time to discuss- March meeting moved to February. Schmidt states that adding a regular meeting will need to happen at the end of March or beginning of April to vote on the proposals to move them forward. Buck and Hoffman state their conflict with the February 25th meeting date. Schmidt asks about a quorum and the option for an extension, if needed. The Board discussed March 18th as a tentative date for another regular meeting, and a backup of March 25th. Buck makes a Motion to approve the 2026 Calendar. Roemmich seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

(Kyle Leingang leaves meeting.)

Brady Martz (Tyler Richter present), Richter hands out two audit reports to the Board, years 2024 and 2025. Richter gives an overview of the audit reports. Mayer asks for a grade of the Board financials – Richter states an “A”. Richter gives positive comments on the investments and revenues and notes no frivolous spending.

(Clay Nagel, IBEW enters the meeting) (Tyler Richter leaves the meeting.)

Six-month 25-26 budget Snapshot, Schmidt discusses the spreadsheet handout to the Board. Schmidt asks about capping fees or adding a multiplier to reduce income. Hoffman states that using the interest earned money for education is a big positive. Schmidt states that they could increase the education fund, but that discussion can be in July. Brandenburg states that more inspectors will be needed once the data centers are up and running.

NDSEB took a brief recess at 10:36am. NDSEB reconvened at 10:50am.

(Scott Halle enters meeting.)

Education, Halle talks to the Board about his past education classes and their attendance for those. Marketplace for kids has completed 4 classes and those are going well and the kids enjoy the kits. Minot and Wahpeton have marketplace coming up. Career fairs are going well. Getting ready for exam changes and still doing exams each month with about 20 people in each.

Bismarck State College (BSC) 1st year electrical provisionally board approved program, Schmidt talks to the Board about their electrical program progress and reports on their Advisory Board meeting he attended. He also asked BSC to provide a self audit for their 1st program and the intention of their 2nd year program with a list of instructors.

Education Committee, Schmidt talks to the Board about their recent meeting. They reviewed H&H’s application for related training. Halle went out for a site visit. Schmidt talks about they originally were proposing to hold classes in a trailer on their various job sites. Clay Nagel stated that the program isn’t well put together and a lot of work was needed yet. Schmidt talks about his meeting with Magnum and their training program. Schmidt would like the education structures that these companies are putting together to be followed better. Adam tells the Board of the conflict of interest these companies have in providing education/training to their apprentices. He talks about for-profit companies have underlying interests and he is worried that these programs are being run substandard. Schmidt clarifies that these companies only have provisional program approval, so they are being closely monitored. Schmidt provided a draft letter with suggestions from the education committee put together that needed board approval to send to H&H Electric asking for more information on their application. Halle talks about these businesses and the fact that can use the four education programs in the State to utilize but they are choosing to build their own program from the ground up. Hoffman talks about not diluting education. Schmidt asks the Board to revise the proposed letter as they see fit. A revised board approved letter will be sent regular and certified mail.

Schmidt talks about Christian Opp’s application for the education committee. Opp is employed by Magnum Electric. Total number on the Board is 11 currently. Opp was

previously on the NDSEB Education Advisory Board representing the college degree programs but was replaced by Rob Zacharias. Adding Opp would make 3 parties from the same segment- Related Training. Schmidt wants to know the Boards opinion. Roemmich talks about the committee possibly being too large to run effectively. The Board talks about Board terms and whether Opp can wait and apply at that time. The Board decided that there is no opening at this time and to reapply at a later date.

North Dakota Electrical Industry Association (ND-EIA) Schmidt discusses the organizational meeting held by the ND EIA and the progress so far. The NDSEB gave start-up money to put this association together. The Bylaws have been adopted by the newly formed association, and the directors have been selected. Schmidt talks about the perks of this being a local chapter and eventually, hopefully, being part of larger sister states association. Schmidt is working with McClintock at NFPA to secure the proper paperwork to be recognized by the NFPA as an EIS association. Schmidt would like this association to piggyback off NDSEB already set-up ability to collect dues, fees, registrations etc. so the board office can assist the association with the business duties through this office that will be required. Hoffman questioned the current capacity to add more to the current staff if necessary. Schmidt is looking to finalize the formation of this association and get it approved by the NFPA, moving forward in a calculated fashion to assure all paperwork if properly submitted and taken care of -just moving forward with "baby steps" at this time.

(Scott Halle leaves meeting.)

Elevator Mechanics interview, Jesse Miller came in for an interview yesterday. Mayer talked about a certain expectation in pay and an expected title of "Inspector". Miller appears qualified and an offer will be considered. Schmidt stated that there were three applications in total but two dropped out- one due to location and one due to a misunderstanding the job was solely in Fargo. Larson stated that the position could be posted nationally and maybe gain some additional acceptable applicants if needed.

Inspector interviews, Schmidt said they had three applications but two dropped out. The interview was yesterday and Schmidt will visit with the candidate again.

Past Due Skid Corrections, Schmidt talks about the corrections going well. He thinks that another deep dive will have to be done in a couple months. Schmidt talks about new skids having GPS location and being easier to track.

Schmidt stated Grand Forks hired a City Inspector and it's going well. NDSEB will continue to inspect UND and self-wires. Doug has been there and training and assisting with overseeing inspections there.

General Items, Mayer talks about Carson Cannon not showing up to the meeting even though he was extremely upset on the phone. Schmidt talks to the Board about communications Schmidt/Mayer receive and whether it needs change or if it is currently effective. Schmidt asks the Board to complete their Statement of Interests. A fine applies if not completed by January 31, 2026.

Professional Services, Mayer discusses possibly changing the board's biennial audit from Brady Martz. Roemmich talks about possibly having term limits before having to send out an RFP for new options. Mayer would like the Board to consider putting a feeler out for different audit companies.

NDSEB took a brief recess at 12:23pm. NDSEB reconvened at 12:40pm.

Administrative Rules, Schmidt discusses the modifications to specific rules. (see packet for modifications.) Public input is scheduled for February 25, 2026 @ 8:30am at the NDSEB office.

Mayer states the next Board meeting is February 25th. Hoffman makes a Motion to adjourn. Brandenburg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 1:01pm.

Date _____

Date _____

Rodney Mayer, President

James Brandenburg, Secretary