

MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING
February 17, 2014

The Board of Educational Service Unit #11 of the State of Nebraska, hereinafter referred to as ESU #11, held its regular monthly meeting at the Office Building in Holdrege, Nebraska on February 17, 2014 with the following members present: Karen Duncan, Lorenda Forbes, Gary Smidt, Kevin Breece, Linda Leising, Susan Perry, and David Fleischmann. Richard Phillips was absent.

Notification was made of the Open Meetings Law.

Public Notice that the regular monthly meeting of the Board of ESU #11 would be held on February 17, 2014 was published in one newspaper of general circulation in each of the six counties making up ESU #11 during the week of February 3, 2014 and broadcast over radio stations KUVR and KRVN during that same week. The Public Notice also stated that a current agenda of items to be brought before the Board was available for public inspection in the office of ESU #11 and that reasonable accommodations for individuals with special needs who want to attend the meeting would be provided on request if sufficient advance notice is given.

Motion made by Gary Smidt, seconded by Susan Perry, to excuse the absences of board member Richard Phillips. Vote as follows: Karen Duncan, yes; Lorenda Forbes, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; Kevin Breece, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Susan Perry, yes; and David Fleischmann, yes. Motion carried, 7 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

The Oath of Office was recited and signed by new member Kevin Breece. Kevin also signed the ESU 11 Code of Ethics for Board Members.

The minutes of the regular board meeting held on January 20, 2014 were approved as printed.

Paul Tedesco, Unit Administrator, presented the General Fund Financial Report for January 2014. Motion made by David Fleischmann, seconded by Lorenda Forbes, that the General Fund Financial Report be accepted as presented. Vote as follows: Karen Duncan, yes; Lorenda Forbes, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; Kevin Breece, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Susan Perry, yes; and David Fleischmann, yes. Motion carried, 7 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by David Fleischmann, seconded by Susan Perry, that the February 2014 claims for payment be approved in the amount of \$355,052.96. Vote as follows: Karen Duncan, yes; Lorenda Forbes, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; Kevin Breece, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Susan Perry, yes; and David Fleischmann, yes. Motion carried, 7 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

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The following visitors were present: Kate Hatch, Director of Staff Development, Wade Gibson, Technology Consultant, and Lona Nelson-Milks, Transition Services Coordinator.

Motion made by Linda Leising, seconded by Lorenda Forbes to accept with deep regret the resignation of Kathy Whitten, Director of District 1 Board Member. Vote as follows: Karen Duncan, yes; Lorenda Forbes, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; Kevin Breece, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Susan Perry, yes; and David Fleischmann, yes. Motion carried, 7 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by Gary Smidt, seconded by Susan Perry to approve the District 2 Board Appointee, Christy Pelton. Vote as follows: Karen Duncan, yes; Lorenda Forbes, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; Kevin Breece, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Susan Perry, yes; and David Fleischmann, yes. Motion carried, 7 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Paul Tedesco, Unit Administrator, reviewed the minutes from the January and February ESUCC Meeting.

Wade Gibson, Technology Consultant, reviewed and discussed the ESU #11 Annual Survey and the Evaluation of Programs for the 2013-2014 school year. The survey was sent to 921 people with an overall response rate of 34 percent, down from 50% last year. The Leadership Team will be looking more closely at the survey tool and questions next year to see if anything needs to be revised.

Paul Tedesco, Unit Administrator, discussed with the Board the 2014-2015 ESU #11 contracts with member schools.

ESU #11 Board Members discussed Recognition of Service gifts to present to resigned Board Members for their voluntary time. The Board is considering name plaques, clocks, pen sets, or a monetary gift to a charity of the resigned member's choice.

Motion made by David Fleischmann, seconded by Gary Smidt, to approve Kevin Breece, Karen Duncan, Lorenda Forbes, and Susan Perry as Authorized Signers to ESU #11 Accounts. Vote as follows: Karen Duncan, yes; Lorenda Forbes, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; Kevin Breece, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Susan Perry, yes; and David Fleischmann, yes. Motion carried, 7 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Presentations were made to the Board by the ESU 11 Directors, Coordinators and Consultants before entering executive session to discuss the evaluation of the ESU 11 Administrator, discussion of staff contracts, and negotiation purposes.

Kate Hatch, Director of Staff Development, presented her report to the Board about the Statewide Writing Test. The window for the Statewide Writing Test closed on Friday, February 7, 2014. Unfortunately there were substantial technology problems that affected the 8th and 11th grade tests. Numerous districts across the state experienced challenges—some students couldn't log on to the system, some lost their work, and some had formatting problems. This test is not timed, however, 90 minutes is typically ample

time in which to complete the assessment. With all of the problems that were experienced, some students took as long as 2 ½ hours. NDE officials are working with the company that administers the test to determine the extent of the problem statewide. According to the company, approximately 1% of all 8th and 11th graders had problems taking the assessment. While the essays are currently being graded in Minnesota, NDE is working to determine the cause of the problems so they will not be repeated during the NeSA Reading, Math and Science tests that are scheduled to begin in late March. In addition, they are also working to determine the validity of scores for grades 8 and 11 and the appropriate uses for the scores.

Lona Nelson-Milks, Transition Services Coordinator, presented to the Board that information for the 9th Annual Central Nebraska Youth First Conference was sent to school districts last week. As of Monday afternoon, people have registered. During the student sessions, two ESU 11 school districts represented as presenters. A student and teacher from Alma will be discussing the use of Word Clouds as a tool to share information at IEP meetings. A student and the ESU 11 job coach will be discussing the importance of sharing information with work site supervisors and how that is different than classroom teachers. Lona also reported that on March 4th, Angie Kovarik, Jamie Lewis, Kylee Rhamy, and she will be visiting ESU 8's programs for students with significant disabilities to gather ideas for New View. Lastly, there will be a Facts of Life Training in Kearney on April 9, 2014, for schools, parents, and service providers to gain information on sexuality and intimacy for people with intellectual disabilities. Region III Developmental Disability Council helped provide some funds for the trainer to be brought to central Nebraska.

Wade Gibson, Technology Consultant, reported to the Board that there is a LAN Managers' meeting on February 18. Two of the agenda items will be discussions surrounding the new Tri-Valley circuits as well as conversion to a new web content filtering system. Wade also shared with the Board other current projects, including the status of the new telephone system.

Paul Tedesco, Unit Administrator, visited with the Board about his activities this past month in regard to GNENC, negotiations and salary schedules for all employees except the administrator, and the progress in finding a replacement for Jane Moody, Special Education Director.

Motion made by David Fleischmann, seconded by Kevin Breece, to enter into executive session at 7:06 p.m. to discuss ESU 11 Administrator Annual Evaluation, staff contracts, and negotiation purposes. Vote as follows: Karen Duncan, yes; Lorenda Forbes, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; Kevin Breece, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Susan Perry, yes; and David Fleischmann, yes. Motion carried, 7 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by David Fleischmann, seconded by Linda Leising, to exit executive session at 7:51 p.m. Vote as follows: Karen Duncan, yes; Lorenda Forbes, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; Kevin Breece, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Susan Perry, yes; and David Fleischmann, yes. Motion carried, 7 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

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Motion made by Susan Perry, seconded by Lorenda Forbes to ratify the Certified Staff Contract and Conditions of Employment for 2014-2015. Vote as follows: Karen Duncan, yes; Lorenda Forbes, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; Kevin Breece, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Susan Perry, yes; and David Fleischmann, no. Motion carried, 6 yes, 1 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by Susan Perry, seconded by Linda Leising to approve the salary and benefits for the Directors and Coordinators 2014-2015 contract year. Vote as follows: Karen Duncan, yes; Lorenda Forbes, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; Kevin Breece, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Susan Perry, yes; and David Fleischmann, yes. Motion carried, 7 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by David Fleischmann, seconded by Lorenda Forbes to approve the salary and benefits for the Classified staff 2014-2015 contract year. Vote as follows: Karen Duncan, yes; Lorenda Forbes, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; Kevin Breece, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Susan Perry, yes; and David Fleischmann, yes. Motion carried, 7 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on March 17, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

Karen Duncan declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Lorenda Forbes, Board Secretary