

MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING
November 18, 2019

The Board of Educational Service Unit #11 of the State of Nebraska, hereinafter referred to as ESU 11, held its regular meeting at the office building located at 412 West 14th Avenue in Holdrege, Nebraska on November 18, 2019 with the following members present: Chris Erickson, Machelles Havenridge, Galen Kronhofman, Linda Leising, Mary Oman, Craig Philips, Richard Phillips, Gary Smidt, and Nate Stineman. Kim Scoville was absent.

Notification was made of the open meetings law. The open meeting laws were on display throughout the Board Meeting.

Public Notice that the regular monthly meeting of the Board of ESU 11 would be held on November 18, 2019 was published in one newspaper of general circulation in each of the six counties making up ESU 11 during the week of November 4, 2019, 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 Machelles Havenridge, seconded by Galen Kronhofman, to excuse the absence of Kim Scoville. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Board President, Richard Phillips, asked the board members if they had any questions on the regular board meeting minutes from October 21, 2019. No questions were brought forward. Dr. Greg Barnes, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from October 2019 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by Craig Philips, seconded by Mary Oman, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by Linda Leising, seconded by Chris Erickson, to approve the purchase of Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce Bucks for all staff. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Wade Gibson, Media Technology Coordinator, reported to the Board regarding upcoming transport circuit bids through the State of Nebraska. He mentioned that UNK is being added as an aggregation point for potential bidders, which could prove to be advantageous for ESU 11 area districts which currently aggregate in Grand Island. Wade also reported that at a recent ADVISER workday they were able to reconfigure how most districts' PowerSchool SIS systems were sending email messages so they could now be DMARC compliant. ESU 11 is evaluating a wireless intelligence device called Wyebot, which can analyze the WiFi in an area and report back with potential changes that can be made to increase performance and reliability. Last, Wade informed the board that ESU 11 recently conducted a security assessment campaign using KnowBe4 to determine the level of susceptibility that certain groups of users might be to email phishing scams.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that nine schools in our area have been identified as either Targeted Support and Improvement or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement. These schools have devised a plan to address this and have incorporated it through either their Continuous Improvement Plan, Special Education TIP plan, or Title I plan. Kate also reported that the State Board of Education has approved the College and Career Ready Social Studies Standards. In addition, the American Civics Education Bill (LB399) went into effect this year. This bill specifically requires schools to incorporate curriculum relating to patriotism and Americanism. The Legislature included a penalty provision for any person violating this law (Class III misdemeanor).

Dr. Barnes, Unit Administrator, informed the board that the Educators Health Alliance (EHA) health and dental rates would increase 6.71% for the 2020-2021 year. Dr. Barnes reported that some ESUs in northeast Nebraska have a program through Wayne State College that helps connect Wayne State education students with ESU schools. Once 60 credit hours are completed, the education students can apply for a local substitute certificate that allows them to sub in the ESU school districts for up to 90 days. ESU 10 and ESU 11 are looking into a similar agreement with UNK in hopes to help our districts with their substitute teacher shortages. Dr. Barnes reported that the ESU 11 Leadership Team is working on a common system of recording data relative to services we provide our schools. ESUCC would like all ESUs to use their SIMPL data program in order to share the statewide data with ESUs and State Senators. The Leadership Team found that the SIMPL program has some limitations, yet promise as well. Last, Dr. Barnes mentioned the board districts election deadline for incumbents is July 15, 2020 and non-incumbents is August 1, 2020.

Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Galen Kronhofman, to enter Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. to discuss and review the Administrator evaluation process and goals. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machel Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Phillips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Board President, Richard Phillips, restated the reason for Executive Session is to discuss the Administrator evaluation process and goals.

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Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Craig Philips, to exit Executive Session at 6:26 p.m. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelie Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Board President, Richard Phillips, declared the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on December 16, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary