

**MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 17, 2020**

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, 2020. President Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Machelles Havenridge, Galen Kronhofman, Linda Leising, Craig Philips, Richard Phillips, Kim Scoville, Gary Smidt, and Nate Stineman. Chris Erickson and Mary Oman were 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, 2020 was published in one newspaper of general circulation in each of the six counties making up ESU 11 during the week of February 3, 2020 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 Linda Leising, to excuse the absence of Chris Erickson and Mary Oman. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Mary Oman arrived at 5:02 p.m.

Dr. Barnes reviewed the consent agenda items, including the minutes from the January 20, 2020 meeting and the financial reports and claims. Motion made by Galen Kronhofman, seconded by Craig Philips, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by Mary Oman, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to accept the resignation of Business Manager, Elizabeth Piening, and thank her for 14 years of service to ESU 11. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

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Motion made by Linda Leising, seconded by Gary Smidt, to accept the resignation of Speech Pathologist, Katie Sisson, and thank her for 11 years of service to ESU 11. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by Galen Kronhofman, seconded by Craig Philips, to accept the resignation of Speech Pathologist, Amanda Lans, and thank her for 12 years of service to ESU 11. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by Machelles Havenridge, seconded by Mary Oman, to approve the office space lease with ESUCC through August 31, 2021. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Lona Nelson-Milks, Special Education Director, attended the NASES Legislative Conference on February 6th and 7th in Lincoln. This conference allows Directors of Special Education to meet with State Senators to share their knowledge about special education and the costs. Due to schedule conflicts, she was not able to speak directly to the Senators but spoke to their aides about special education funding and bills. Lona also reported that five ESU 11 districts are completing the Parent Survey process. It is a three-year cycle in which parents are asked about special education services, involvement, and student progress. Next, Lona mentioned that the districts are in the process of submitting Post-School Outcomes Contact information. One year after exiting public education, the UNL Research Department works to contact students about the services they received while in high school as well as employment, higher education, and/or support service opportunities that have been accessed since high school. Last, Lona talked about the changes to contracted services with the districts for the upcoming school year. The Special Education Department and Dr. Barnes will be working on staffing to fit districts' needs.

Janelle Jack, Gifted Education Coordinator, reported that the ESU 11 middle school and elementary quiz bowls would be held on February 19th at the Nebraska Prairie Museum. The elementary quiz bowl was rescheduled to this date due to inclement weather in January. Janelle has also been busy preparing for the 2020 Summer Honors Program (SHP) by filling instructor positions. This year's Phelps County Give2Grow program raised over \$8,000 for SHP, which is greatly appreciated and will help tremendously with costs. Janelle read a couple letters from Give2Grow donors thanking SHP for challenging students to reach a higher potential and complimenting the program for accepting students for who they are.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that the Nebraska Council of School Administrators put together an infographic that shows as to where the state of

Nebraska ranks in comparison to the rest of the schools in the nation. The graphic also provides information regarding the states percentage in various demographic areas, graduation rate, and attendance rate. While many individuals are anxious to point out the alleged short-comings of the state's educational system, this document helps to provide a better picture that presents Nebraska's high national rankings despite various challenges that we face.

Wade Gibson, Media/Technology Coordinator, reported that E-Rate Category 2 applications are in process for Axtell, Loomis, and Wilcox-Hildreth. The E-Rate filing deadline is March 25th so it is a short timeline to get applications finalized and filed for everyone. He also talked about the statewide request for proposal for transport circuit bids and hopes to see the results next week at the Network Operations Committee (NOC) meeting. Wade presented the new esu11.org website and some of the updated design elements as well as reported on the #TurnitUptoESU11 launch. The #TurnitUptoESU11 campaign is designed to better share the story of ESU 11 and to raise awareness of the activities taking place in the ESU 11 area and districts.

Dr. Greg Barnes, Unit Administrator, reported on the annual survey results. The survey went out to ESU 11 school personnel requesting input on the quality of services provided as well as future needs they might have that the ESU could help with. Dr. Barnes was pleased to see the survey response rate increased from 46 to 60 percent this year. On February 12th, Dr. Barnes attended ESU Day at the Capitol and was able to speak with both senators that represents the ESU 11 area as well as a number of others. The Hot Topics presentation by KSB Law on February 5th had great attendance by area school board members and received complimentary reviews. Dr. Barnes talked briefly on the Master Service Agreement updates and reminded the Board members the deadline to file for the Board Election is July 15, 2020.

Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Galen Kronhofman, to enter Executive Session to discuss wages and benefits for the 2020-21 contract year at 6:25 p.m. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Richard Phillips, Board President, restated the reason for Executive Session is to discuss wages and benefits for the 2020-21 contract year.

Motion made by Craig Philips, seconded by Linda Leising, to exit Executive Session at 6:38 p.m. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

The next meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on March 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Richard Phillips, Board President, declared the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary