

**MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 16, 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 March 16, 2020. Dr. Barnes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Chris Erickson, Machelles Havenridge, Linda Leising, Craig Philips, Gary Smidt, and Nate Stineman. Galen Kronhofman, Mary Oman, Richard Phillips, and Kim Scoville 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 March 16, 2020 was published in one newspaper of general circulation in each of the six counties making up ESU 11 during the week of March 2, 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 Linda Leising, seconded by Gary Smidt, to excuse the absences of Galen Kronhofman, Mary Oman, Richard Phillips, and Kim Scoville. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Dr. Barnes reviewed the consent agenda items, including the minutes from the February 17, 2020 meeting and the financial reports and claims. Motion made by Machelles Havenridge, seconded by Chris Erickson, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Motion made by Chris Erickson, seconded by Craig Philips, to accept the resignation of school psychologist, Shannon Helgoth, effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Motion made by Linda Leising, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to accept the resignation of school nurse, Shannon Bauer, effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Linda Leising,

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yes; Craig Philips, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Motion made by Gary Smidt, seconded by Craig Philips, to approve Amanda Helms as ESU 11 Business Manager effective immediately and to appoint Amanda as Treasurer of the ESU 11 Board. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelle Havenridge, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Motion made by Chris Erickson, seconded by Nate Stineman, to offer a school psychologist contract to Taylor-Beth Strong for the 2020-21 school year. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelle Havenridge, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Kim Scoville arrived at 5:09 p.m.

Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Linda Leising, to approve the designated banks and accounts as presented; and to authorize ESU 11 Administrator, Greg Barnes, and the ESU 11 Treasurer, Amanda Helms, as signers for all Non-General Fund accounts. Further, to have the ESU 11 Board Chairperson Richard Phillips, Secretary Mary Oman, and alternate board member Craig Philips, and Administrator Greg Barnes (alternate) as authorized signers for General Fund checks from Great Western Bank account number 101204233. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelle Havenridge, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

The Board discussed and will plan to move the April 20th Board Meeting to April 13, 2020 in order to meet the April 15th contract deadline.

Janelle Jack, Gifted Education Coordinator, gave an update on the Summer Honors Program and the possibility of canceling classes this year. As of now, Janelle has recommended all SHP instructors to wait on making travel plans. The Summer Honors draft remains to take place and students will be notified whether they have or have not qualified. She has communicated with SHP instructors that a final decision would be made by May 1st at the latest. Many of the Gifted Department's activities have been modified to keep personal interaction to a minimum. Invention Convention and possibly Battle of the Books will be held virtually. Janelle is hoping to partner with ESU 16 in North Platte on April 30th to offer a conference that addresses many difficulties that middle school gifted students face such as perfectionism and boredom. She is hoping the new experience will be well received by the students of the unit.

Lona Nelson-Milks, Special Education Director, has been working with districts, NDE, and school attorneys to navigate how to provide special education and related services while school districts are closed. Updates occur on a regular basis as new information is made available. Individualized Education Plans (IEP) for students will continue as scheduled. Lona is working with Dr. Barnes on the ESU SPED staffing needs

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as well as exploring ways to provide school psychologist services to meet district needs. The Eustis-Farnam school board has asked Lona for information on a district-run preschool program, so she attended the board meeting to help start the planning process and determine how they want to proceed.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that changes regarding school calendars and events are happening on a minute by minute basis. The NDE Assessment Office has communicated with districts regarding statewide testing, which begins today, March 16th. Currently NDE is suspending NSCAS testing for the rest of the school year. NDE is working with ACT so students can take that assessment, which will benefit them as they look ahead at getting into colleges. Numerous conversations have taken place regarding how schools can provide education services to students if/when districts close. While many districts have the ability to provide some education opportunities via distance learning, there are legal implications that may prohibit districts from providing equitable education that adheres to Rule 51 for students receiving special education services. Last, schools that have scheduled Kate and Jody Bauer, Technology/Curriculum Consultant, to conduct in-services within the next two weeks have canceled since they will be shutting down for the time being.

Wade Gibson, Media/Technology Coordinator, reported the results of the recent statewide circuits bid. Some schools in the ESU 11 area will be changing providers however, all districts are seeing decreased pricing than in the previous years. Wade mentioned that the E-Rate filing deadline was extended from March 25th to April 29th. The extended deadline will help immensely in getting applications filed on time. ESU 11 hosted a face-to-face LAN Managers meeting on March 11th with the Coronavirus being a big topic of the day's discussion.

Dr. Greg Barnes, Unit Administrator, gave a brief legislative update on property tax relief. Due to COVID-19 the Nebraska Legislature remains adjourned until further notice. Dr. Barnes discussed his plans regarding COVID-19 and ESU 11 staff. As of now, the ESU 11 office will remain open and staff will continue to serve schools as needed. Each week Dr. Barnes will re-evaluate as situations change. Motion made by Linda Leising, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to accept the resolution regarding COVID-19. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Chris Erickson, seconded by Kim Scoville, to enter Executive Session at 6:18 p.m. to discuss personnel and personnel negotiations. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

The reason to enter Executive Session is to discuss personnel and personnel negotiations was restated.

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Motion made by Linda Leising, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to exit Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Gary Smidt, seconded by Craig Philips, to approve the package increase for classified staff for 2020-21 as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Chris Erickson, seconded by Linda Leising, to approve the package increase for the Coordinators/Directors for 2020-21 as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

It was a consensus of the Board to table the administrator contract package for 2020-21 until the April Board Meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on April 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Oman, Board Secretary