

**MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020**

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 in Holdrege, Nebraska on September 14, 2020 with the following members present: Chris Erickson, Machelle Havenridge, Linda Leising, Mary Oman, Craig Philips, Richard Phillips, Kim Scoville, Gary Smidt, and Nate Stineman. Galen Kronhofman was absent.

President Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and notification was made of the open meeting law.

Public Notice that the regular monthly meeting of the Board of ESU #11 would be held on September 14, 2020 was published in the newspapers of general circulation in the ESU #11 service area during the week of September 7, 2020 and was broadcast over radio stations KUVR and KRVN on September 9, 2020. 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 Nate Stineman, seconded by Gary Smidt, to excuse the absence of Galen Kronhofman. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelle Havenridge, 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.

Board President, Richard Phillips, opened the floor for public comment. No visitors were present for comment.

Board President, Richard Phillips, asked the board members if they had any questions on the regular board meeting minutes from August 17, 2020 or the special board meeting minutes from August 31, 2020. No questions were brought forward. Dr. Greg Barnes, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from August 2020 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by Linda Leising, seconded by Mary Oman, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelle Havenridge, 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 Nate Stineman, seconded by Craig Philips, to approve the 2020-2021 ESU 11 Budget as advertised. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelle Havenridge, 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 Chris Erickson, seconded by Machelle Havenridge, to approve the 2020-2021 property tax request resolution as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelle Havenridge, 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.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that Professional Learning Communities (PLC) began on September 14th and will continue through November. These workshops are being offered in both face-to-face and remote settings. Schools have had conversations regarding how to address remote learning if the school is temporarily shut down, but need to focus more on how to provide manageable, quality remote instruction when pockets of students are in a remote setting while others are face-to-face. Kate also reported that the Assessment Department at NDE is beginning to transition to a new statewide assessment system that they are calling the Through-Year Adaptive Model. NSCAS through-year assessment is like a hybrid of the current NSCAS General Summative and NSCAS Interim (MAP Growth). Fall, winter, and spring tests will adapt outside of grade level to reflect student learning level and growth. The assessments will also measure student performance relative to the NSCAS General Summative assessment. The Phase 1 Pilot will begin in ELA and Math in the spring of 2021.

Janelle Jack, Gifted Education Coordinator, reported that Cambridge and Holdrege districts recently participated in a trial virtual Quiz Bowl, but they hope to be able to host their quiz bowls in person if at all possible. The Gifted Department has been organizing activities and visiting schools. Janelle acknowledged that it was good to be back among the students. She also reported that eight educators from across the state have been asked to revise Rule 3, and Janelle is one of those who will be participating. Janelle also mentioned that Future Problem-Solving Seminars will be conducted via Virtual Learning this year.

Lona Nelson-Milks, Special Education Director, reported that the Special Education Financial Reports (SPEDFRS) opened on September 1st. ESU #11 has requested that districts submit information by September 23rd so we can begin going through expense reports and other documentation in order to meet the October 31st deadline. Lona has been working with districts on their Maintenance of Effort Tracking Tool (MOE) to determine how much, if any, of their IDEA grant they can claim and still meet MOE. She reported that one district has been notified by NDE that their data show a Significant Disproportionality of white students verified in the category of Speech and Language Impairment. She is working with that district to gather the requested information. Last, Lona reported that the format for the Youth First Conference has changed for this year. The format change is due to the funding source changing the focus of the grant. The event will be called a Job Expo with the

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main focuses being on interviewing, skill-based assessments provided by businesses, and assistive technology to support an employee at work. With the change in format, we are only able to host 50 to 60 students instead of the 200 plus students from previous years.

Wade Gibson, Media Technology Coordinator, reported to the Board regarding technology staffing updates at Holdrege, who is currently advertising for a full-time Technology Support Specialist. Wade mentioned that the department is working with Axtell on a UniFi Protect security camera expansion. A Media Monday Zoom session with Librarians was held on September 14th, and a Tech Talk Tuesday Zoom session with Technology Coordinators will be held on September 15th. Wade plans to share a number of topics with the Technology Coordinators including the Eduroam initiative.

Dr. Barnes, Unit Administrator, reported that President Trump issued an executive order to allow Social Security Deferment to 2021. Dr. Barnes feels this will create an excess of paperwork for little benefit to employees. Thus ESU #11 will forgo this optional program. Dr. Barnes updated the Board on the building and grounds needed improvements as well as the new Directed Health Measures that are now in place. He also mentioned that the ESU #11 audit is scheduled for November 23rd. Dr. Barnes is beginning to gather information for the Certificated Staff Negotiations and plans to start discussions by the end of October in order to have negotiations settled by February 15th. Last, Dr. Barnes reported that he has been working with Steve Williams at KSB Law to update our policies.

The next meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on October 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Board President Phillips declared the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary