

MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING
December 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 located at 412 West 14th Avenue in Holdrege, Nebraska and via Zoom on December 14, 2020 with the following members present: Chris Erickson, Linda Leising, Craig Philips, Richard Phillips. Machelle Havenridge, Galen Kronhofman, Mary Oman, Kim Scoville, and Gary Smidt. Nate Stineman 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 December 14, 2020 was published in area newspapers of general circulation during the week of November 30, 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 Mary Oman, seconded by Craig Philips to excuse board member Nate Stineman from the meeting. 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 November 16, 2020. No questions were brought forward. Dr. Greg Barnes, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from November 2020 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by Linda Leising, seconded by Kim Scoville, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelle Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by Galen Kronhofman, seconded by Machelle Havenridge, to extend the Family First Coronavirus Response Act Leave set to expire on December 31, 2020 through May 31, 2021 unless the Federal Government approves an extension into 2021. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelle Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Wade Gibson, Media Technology Coordinator, shared with the Board regarding the start of the upcoming E-Rate cycle. As part of this process, he has gathered ESU 11 enrollment numbers for the 2020-2021 school year and shared a summary of those with the Board. Wade also shared with the board a dashboard report from Freshdesk showing ticket counts and progress on contract hours for the year. Alex Wyatt will be visiting Cambridge, Arapahoe, Eustis-Farnam, and Wilcox-Hildreth on a regular basis through the Spring.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that during this past month she has been in various districts conducting in-services on the following topics: Principal Meeting: Social Emotional Learning and Teacher Evaluation. Continuous Improvement Meetings: Leadership Planning, School Profile Development, External Visitation Preparation, MTSS Integration, Action Plan Writing, Comprehensive Career Development Plan and Teacher Evaluations. In January she will be teaching a 9 week graduate class called “Brain Friendly Teaching.” In this course participants will learn about how the brain learns and functions, and various instructional strategies and methods that support brain-based learning, and that can be used to help increase student achievement. There are currently 12 people registered.

Janelle Jack, Coordinator of Gifted Education, reported on the different happenings in the HAL department. Even though the COVID Risk Dial had been moving in the wrong direction, we have been able to host face to face competitions at various schools. It looks different, but both the coaches and competitors are happy to be competing. She also feels fortunate to be able to be in schools with the students, helping differentiate and enrich instruction for HAL students. She also reported that the Phelps County Community Foundation Give to Grow was held November 19, and Summer Honors received \$2,380.00 in donations. She wasn't for sure how much they would receive in matching funds. Janelle continues to test students, and Destinee is spending some time helping out with the administration of SPED tests with remote psychologists. They are looking forward to SHP 2021 happening, there will not be Medical Science, but the rest of the classes are currently on as planned.

Lona Nelson-Milks, Special Education Director, reported on teleservices for school psychology and how they are working together with other departments to have an ESU staff member assist with the testing process. She also reported that one of our districts that had to develop a Corrective Action Plan for being out of compliance during monitoring last year has received its closeout letter from NDE. The district was found to be in compliance after training and review of additional files. She updated the board that individual meetings with superintendents and bookkeeper/business managers are being held as a follow-up to special education final financial reports. So far, all of the districts have seen the benefit in suggestions that have been made to do some monthly preparation vs. end of the fiscal year work for final financials. She noted that a Prior Written Notice Training was held on December 4th via Zoom. Through discussions with district staff and ESU staff, hour-long training focused on one topic will be held monthly due to not being able to host an ESU-wide special education meeting. Lastly, Jamie Love, Transition Coordinator, wrote and received a grant from the Phelps County Foundation to host a Youth First Conference as we traditionally have hosted. As reported before, Vocational Rehabilitation, which has funded the Youth First Conference in the past, changed the requirements of the event to a Job Expo. ESU 11 wanted to find a way to continue with the traditional conference as well as the Job Expo, so Jamie worked on seeking other grant funds.

Dr. Barnes, Unit Administrator, reported on building and grounds and updates on window sash, and carpet tile replacement efforts. He also reported on coronavirus efforts

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and redistricting of ESU 11 board member districts once the new census numbers are available.

Motion made by Chris Erickson, seconded by Craig Philips, to enter Executive Session at 5:57 p.m. to discuss and review the Administrator's evaluation and discuss personnel negotiations. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, 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 and personnel negotiations.

Motion made by Linda Leising, seconded by Galen Kronhofman, to exit Executive Session at 6:34 p.m. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Board President, Richard Phillips, declared the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on January 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary