

MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING
January 18, 2021

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 January 18, 2021 with the following members present: Nate Stineman, Craig Philips, Machelles Havenridge, Galen Kronhofman, Mary Oman, Kim Scoville, and Gary Smidt. Richard Phillips, Chris Erickson and Linda Leising were absent.

Vice President Kronhofman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and 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 January 18, 2021 was published in area newspapers of general circulation during the week of January 4, 2021, 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 Mary Oman, to excuse board members Richard Phillips, Chris Erickson and Linda Leising from the meeting. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Nate Stineman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Board Member Chris Erickson arrived at 5:03 pm.

Vice President Kronhofman asked for comments from the public. Seeing no visitors present he moved on to the next agenda item.

Dr. Barnes opened the discussion on reorganization of the board and the election of officers for 2021. Motion was made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Craig Philips to keep the officers the same for 2021 as they were in 2020--Richard Phillips, President, Galen Kronhofman, Vice President, and Mary Oman, Secretary. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Nate Stineman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by Mary Oman, seconded by Machelles Havenridge to appoint Amanda Helms as Board Treasurer from February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Nate Stineman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

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Board committees for 2021 were discussed and since Board President Phillips was absent he could not formally appoint the committees, but board members seemed content to keep the committees the same in 2021 as they were in 2020.

Board Vice President, Galen Kronhofman, asked the board members if they had any questions on the regular board meeting minutes from December 14, 2020. No questions were brought forward. Dr. Greg Barnes, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from December 2020 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by Chris Erickson, seconded by Craig Philips, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Mabelle Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Nate Stineman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

The board then discussed designating a law firm to provide services for ESU 11 for 2021. Motion made by Mary Oman, seconded by Gary Smidt, to approve KSB School Law as legal counsel for 2021. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Mabelle Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Nate Stineman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

The board reviewed the list of Newspapers of Record to be used for official notices for 2021. After discussion on some mergers and name changes a motion was made by Kim Scoville, seconded by Mabelle Havenridge, to designate the following newspapers of record: Franklin County Chronicle, Harlan County Journal, Holdrege Daily Citizen, Minden Courier, and the Valley Voice. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Mabelle Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Nate Stineman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Dr. Barnes presented findings from the 2019-20 Financial Audit of ESU 11. Motion made by Chris Erickson, seconded by Nate Stineman to accept the 2019-20 Audit. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Mabelle Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Nate Stineman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Lona Nelson-Milks, Special Education Director, reported that ESU 11 will be participating in the UNK School Psychologist Internship Interview Day on January 22nd. ESU 11 has filled school psychologist positions with interns in the past. We currently are advertising for a full-time school psychologist. She also reported that some of our districts have been scheduling quarterly on-site special education meetings focusing on topics related to specific needs within that district. We will continue to reach out to the other districts to see if this is something that they are interested in scheduling. Mrs. Nelson-Milks went on to share that NDE stated last week that they are starting to review Final Financials. If there are questions, they will be notifying districts. If questions come up, we will work closely with districts and NDE to resolve concerns. She also reported that once all MSA are back, staffing needs will be evaluated, we will begin putting together staff assignments. Also, the Planning Region Team will have their

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third quarter meeting on Friday. Two main goals of the PRT this year is to work with providers on their fidelity checks for the Routines Based Interview, which is a family assessment. The other goal is to look at our Child Find process and the number of children eligible in each district.

Wade Gibson, Media Technology Coordinator, reported to the Board that one week ago the ESU 11 Annual Evaluation was sent to 992 participants. To date, we have gotten a 36% response rate, which is higher than anticipated. Wade mentioned that many are experiencing survey fatigue, so the ESU 11 Leadership Team decided to shorten this year's survey to three simple questions. Overall the response has been very positive. Wade has also been working with Axtell on a network installation in their weight room and community center. Wade noted that the E-Rate filing window opened last week and will close on March 25. He will begin filing E-Rate applications for school circuits in the coming weeks.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that since the beginning of January, schools are still favorable to having the Staff Development Department come to their school to provide professional development for teachers. Jody and she have been out in 8 schools so far this month. We have also begun conducting our Follow-up PLCs. These meetings are held virtually after school. Mrs. Hatch also reported that on January 19, ESUs 9, 10 and 11 will conduct the Career and Technical Education Conference virtually. The decision to have this virtually was made in December when the DHM stated that we could only have 25% on site capacity. We have 103 teachers registered to attend the event with 20 of those teachers being from the ESU 11 area. The Nebraska Extension Office is in the process of submitting an event form to UNL and the Two Rivers Health Department in hopes that we will be able to hold the Connect the Dots Career Exploration Day, which is funded with Perkins dollars. The current DHM states that indoor events can be held at 50% capacity, which is good because we anticipate having approximately 175 people in attendance. To date, all but 2 schools have indicated that they will participate. Lastly, the graduate course she is teaching this semester is off to a great start with 13 teachers participating.

Janelle Jack, Gifted Coordinator, shared that we received the final summary for Give 2 Grow from the Phelps County Community Foundation, and the total for 2020 was \$3,147.00. She was very pleased with the final amount. There are different grants available, especially for Fine Arts, and she plans on applying for grants to help defer the costs of Summer Honors. A Summer Honors Advisory Meeting was held on Sunday, January 17. They discussed the changes that will be necessary for SHP 2021. The students were excited to be having the program, and didn't seem too concerned about the changes. The students will be done for the day by at least 8:00 each evening, except for the dance, which we are planning to finish by ten o'clock. Registrations are due for the program by January 27th, with over 130 students being registered so far. We anticipate there being about 105 participants this year. We plan to visit with the superintendents about providing transportation, we're not for sure how that is going to look this year. She continues to be welcome at the schools, spending the day in Franklin as they celebrated their 100th day of school. The ESU #11 Elementary Quiz Bowl will be held on Wednesday, January 20. There will be 12 teams, with no spectators. It will be different, but it will still give the students a chance to compete. Testing right after the Holiday

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Break has been very busy. Several schools have decided to try and host a quiz bowl, so questions and help with those competitions keep them busy. There hasn't been a lot of activity with the Nebraska Association for the Gifted. They have decided to not hold an in-person conference this year. The new Nebraska State Director is continuing on with her work on Rule 3, which provides for Gifted Education in the state of Nebraska. She enjoys her contact with these people, especially the expertise they share with everyone.

Dr. Barnes, Unit Administrator, provided a legislative update. He also visited with the board about potential ESU 11 office hour changes and provided an update on the redistricting of ESU 11 Board Member voting districts. The process has been delayed because the 2020 census results are behind schedule. Dr. Barnes also reported that Board Policy Updates are being reviewed by Policy Committee members and Dr. Barnes. Once all sections are reviewed, a formal adoption will be presented to the entire board. He also gave an update on COVID-19 activities and provided a summary of progress on buildings and grounds projects.

Motion made by Chris Erickson, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to enter Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. to discuss personnel negotiations. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Nate Stineman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Board Vice President, Galen Kronhofman, restated the reason for Executive Session is to discuss personnel negotiations.

Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Craig Philips, to exit Executive Session at 6:47 p.m. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Nate Stineman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Board Vice President, Galen Kronhofman, declared the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on February 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary