

## **MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING MARCH 15, 2021**

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 15, 2021 and via Zoom. Galen Kronhofman, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Chris Erickson, Machelles Havenridge, Galen Kronhofman, Linda Leising, and Craig Philips. Kim Scoville, Gary Smidt, and Nate Stineman attended via Zoom. Mary Oman and Richard Phillips 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 15, 2021 was published in one newspaper of general circulation in each of the six counties making up ESU 11 during the week of March 1, 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 Chris Erickson, seconded by Craig Philips, to excuse the absences of Mary Oman and Richard Phillips. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

One visitor was present for the meeting. Jack Moles, Executive Director of the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA), presented on numerous topics such as his goals for NRCSA, membership benefits, and current legislative bills.

Dr. Barnes reviewed the consent agenda items, including the minutes from the February 22, 2021 meeting and the financial reports and claims. Motion made by Linda Leising, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Gary Smidt, to accept the resignation of Title I Consultant, Susan Young, effective at the end of the 2020-21 school year. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen

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Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Dr. Barnes reported on the status of updating the ESU 11 board policies. He hopes to have the third section finalized soon for the policy committee to review.

Motion made by Craig Philips, seconded by Linda Leising, to approve the office space lease agreement with ESUCC as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machel Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Janelle Jack, Gifted Education Coordinator, reported that the Summer Honors teachers have been secured; all tests are completed; art, creative writing, and drama entries have been judged; and next is the draft in which students have a choice in the class they will participate in. Janelle is very excited for Summer Honors to begin and knows it will be a great year. On March 25, Invention Convention will be held at the Nebraska Prairie Museum and spectators will be present. Janelle is helping with quiz bowls in Minden and Litchfield next week and is also hosting a Future Problem-Solving seminar for the five ESU 11 districts that qualified for state. Janelle reported that she has been asked to present at UNK in an undergraduate class at the end of the month. The ESU 11 High School Quiz Bowl is on April 7 where the top two teams will qualify for the State Quiz Bowl competition in Hastings on April 28. The school year will end with the Rural School activity at the Nebraska Prairie Museum. This activity is a safe field trip option for schools as they will be the only school at the museum and disinfecting will be completed between each group.

Lona Nelson-Milks, Special Education Director, reported that four ESU 11 districts are going through the Monitoring Process. Federal regulations require that the state education association (NDE) monitor districts at least once every five years. Lona also talked about the new Eligibility Guidelines for Special Education that NDE has recently released. Last, Lona reported that the ESU is continuing to advertise for a school psychologist and two resource teachers for one of our school districts.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that the Connect the Dots Career Exploration workshop that was scheduled for February had to be modified due to the extreme cold temperatures and power outages in Holdrege. Instead of conducting a full day workshop, the UNL Extension workers will be traveling to individual districts to work with sophomore students on the following topics: Networking, Resume, and Motivational Skills. Kate reported that NDE is in the process of making some fairly significant changes that will be impacting schools in the near future. Rule 10 is currently being rewritten, which will affect the Continuous Improvement Process. Kate is working with districts to help align data so this isn't a daunting task next year. She and Wade Gibson are hosting a Profile Workday on March 19 to help districts organize the data needed for the Continuous Improvement Process. The English Language Arts standards are being rewritten; however, Kate does not anticipate many changes to these standards.

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The revision process on the Math standards will begin next year with more focus on the problem-solving process as opposed to just the process of solving mathematical problems. Last, a draft of the new Nebraska Health Education Standards has been released. These standards are significantly different from the Physical Education Standards. The new Health Education Standards are more inclusive of individual overall health (personal health, nutrition, injury and disease prevention, social emotional and mental health, and human growth and development). NDE is currently seeking public opinion on the content of these standards, which are available online as well as the survey.

Wade Gibson, Media/Technology Coordinator, reported to the Board regarding a recent group purchase for firewall maintenance renewals. Wade coordinated the group purchase with area schools and was able to drive down final costs an additional 6.5%. Wade has also been working with Bertrand on their preschool addition project and has ordered equipment in preparation for install when the construction is complete. He mentioned that the Axtell weight room and community center project is complete, but they're still waiting on one backordered security camera. On February 26, Wade coordinated with ESU 10 to host a combined virtual Librarians' meeting. They had a number of speakers and topics lined up for the day, which was a great success, and have begun planning a joint meeting for 2022. Wade also mentioned that ESU 11 area LAN Managers will be gathering for a meeting on March 31.

Dr. Greg Barnes, Unit Administrator, gave an update on the Coronavirus and mentioned that some schools are loosening their mask restrictions. As of now, the ESU will continue to require masks in the building. Dr. Barnes reported that he and Lona are working on SPED staffing for 2021-22 and recommended to move the April Board Meeting to April 12 in order to meet the April 15 contract deadline. Next, Dr. Barnes discussed having to redistrict our board districts after the census is complete. He has spoken with a representative from GIS Mapping as well as a UNK professor who has done redistricting for ESU 17. Dr. Barnes hopes to have proposals available for the next Board Meeting.

Motion made by Chris Erickson, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to enter Executive Session at 6:37 p.m. to discuss personnel contracts and personnel negotiations. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

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

Motion made by Linda Leising, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to exit Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

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Motion made by Craig Philips, seconded by Kim Scoville, to approve the 3% package increase for classified staff for 2021-22 as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by Linda Leising, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to approve the 3% package increase for the Coordinators/Directors for 2021-22 as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Linda Leising, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

The next meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on April 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary