

**MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 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 in Holdrege, Nebraska on October 18, 2021 with the following members present: Chris Erickson, Machelles Havenridge, Galen Kronhofman, Mary Oman, Richard Phillips, Kim Scoville, Gary Smidt, and Nate Stineman. Linda Leising and Craig Philips 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 October 18, 2021 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU #11 during the week of October 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 Galen Kronhofman, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to excuse the absences of Linda Leising and Craig Philips. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Board President, Richard Phillips, welcomed visitor Robin Stevens from the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA).

President Phillips, asked the board members if they had any questions on the minutes from the Budget Hearing, Tax Request Hearing, and regular Board Meeting held on September 13, 2021. No questions were brought forward. Dr. Greg Barnes, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from September 2021 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Kim Scoville, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that the ESU 11 Fall Conference was successfully held on October 4, with 533 teachers and administrators in attendance. Evaluations showed that the day was enjoyed and appreciated. Nationally

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renowned speaker, Brad Montgomery, presented an expanded keynote address during the course of the morning entitled “Embrace Your Awesomeness: Getting More Out of Yourself and Those Around You”. Approximately 50 breakout sessions were available for everyone to attend in the afternoon. Next, Kate reported that all of the PLCs have been completed except for high school Social Studies and Math. These meetings have had good attendance despite the substitute shortage in the area. This week Kate is coordinating two days of the Connect the Dots Career Exploration Day for area sophomores. All districts except one will be participating at the Holdrege Ag Center. Wade Gibson and Kate will be offering a Continuous Improvement Profile Development workshop at the end of October. Kate also mentioned that she and Jody Bauer will present at the NETA Fall Technology Conference in Kearney on November 1. Last, Kate reported that the World Language Concert will be held on November 4 at The Tassel, with 168 foreign language students registered to attend.

Lona Nelson-Milks, Special Education Director, reported that the Special Education Final Reports for districts’ expenses related to special education are due October 31 by midnight. Three reports are to be finished and submitted for the districts and Lona thanks Amanda Helms and Jenna Lindstrom for their work on these reports. Districts are working to correct errors on ADVISER for the October Child Count, which is essential for several special education reports; they have until the end of October to correct these errors. On October 15, Lona hosted an ESU-wide Special Education training. Attendees discussed the Prior Written Notice, a procedural safeguard for districts; an SRO for Kearney Public/Kearney Police Department shared information on steps to keep yourself safe while on home visits; and they also participated in an NDE Lunch and Learn for the Targeted Improvement Plan. District attendees joined in person and virtually. Lona reported that NDE notified two districts that they had Disproportionate Representation in the Identification category of Speech and Language Impairment. This requires districts to look at policies and procedures to ensure that they correctly identify students in this category and avoid over-identifying them. Last, Lona wanted to thank all of the Special Education staff for their hard work each day in the districts they serve.

Janelle Jack, Gifted Education Coordinator, reported that she has visited each district this year and has worked with both identified students and individual classrooms. The Gifted Department held a Future Problem-Solving seminar on September 22, concerning the topic of water supply, with 70 students participating. Janelle shared that a considerable number of students are participating in the Battle of the Books activity this year. Two authors have been secured for the “battle” on April 6. Janelle has completed each district’s High Ability grants, and she is also looking forward to attending the National Gifted Conference in Colorado in early November.

Wade Gibson, Media/Technology Coordinator, reported to the board that October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Ironically enough, over the weekend Sinclair Broadcasting, the parent company of local broadcaster, NTV, was the victim of a recent cyber-attack. Wade is attending a NOC training at ESU #5 in Beatrice on October 21, where a representative from the Department of Homeland Security will be training the group on the DHS cybersecurity assessments that are available. ESU #11 already

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participates in the DHS's cyber hygiene scans, which recently alerted them to a web server vulnerability that needed to be patched. Wade hosted the ESU #11 LAN Managers meeting last week, during which a presentation was given by SysCloud on their Google Workspace backup product. The state ESUCC cooperative purchasing has negotiated aggressive pricing for this product, and ESU #11 has moved forward with purchasing licenses for staff. Wade also noted that ESU #11 Librarians will be coming on October 27 for their fall meeting.

Jody Bauer, Technology/Curriculum Consultant, has continued to support schools with digital citizenship. She provides lessons once a month to the following schools and grades: Eustis-Farnam K-12, Franklin 3-8, and Loomis 7-8. Jody reported that the Nebraska ESUs are again hosting the Nebraska Digital Citizenship Symposium online. This year's theme is "Be CyberSmart". In addition to the content, a contest will be provided. Students have the option to create a public service announcement that showcases how to be a CyberSmart citizen based on their training. Last, Jody will be hosting a Blended Learning workshop on October 29.

Dr. Barnes updated the Board on projects for the building and grounds and reported the changes to the new legislative district map. UNO continues to work on the ESU 11 district map and plans to share map options to Dr. Barnes as soon as possible. Dr. Barnes reported that February 9, 2022 has been scheduled for the KSB presentation on Mental Health and other Hot Topics. This presentation is for Superintendents and their school boards.

Motion made by Galen Kronhofman, seconded by Gary Smidt, to appoint Greg Barnes as the state and federal programs administrator for ESU 11. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machel Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, 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 Mary Oman, to accept the resignation of Greg Barnes effective June 30, 2022. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machel Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by Machel Havenridge, seconded by Chris Erickson, to use NRCSA's Administrator Search Services to help hire the next ESU #11 Administrator. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machel Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent. Robin Stevens from NRCSA was present to discuss the Administrator Search Process with Board members.

Board President, Richard Phillips, declared the meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

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A special board meeting will be held on Monday, November 8th at 5:00 p.m., and the next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on November 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary