

MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING
December 20, 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 on December 20, 2021 with the following members present: Chris Erickson, Machelles Havenridge, Galen Kronhofman, Mary Oman, Craig Philips, Richard Phillips, Kim Scoville, and Nate Stineman. Linda Leising and Gary Smidt were 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 20, 2021 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU 11 during the week of December 6, 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 Kim Scoville, seconded by Mary Oman, to excuse the absence of Linda Leising and Gary Smidt. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Board President, Richard Phillips, asked the board members if they had any questions on the regular board meeting minutes from November 15, 2021 and the special board meeting minutes from December 6, December 14, and December 15, 2021. No questions were brought forward. Dr. Greg Barnes, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from November 2021 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Chris Erickson, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by Machelles Havenridge, seconded by Kim Scoville, to accept the resignation of Staff Development Administrative Assistant, Danita Geisinger, effective January 31, 2022. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by Galen Kronhofman, seconded by Craig Philips, to approve the July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024 ESU 11 Administrator contract with John Poppert. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Nate

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Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Wade Gibson, Media Technology Coordinator, reported to the Board regarding nine ESU 11 sites that will be getting bids for transport circuits under a State of Nebraska Department of Purchasing RFP. An existing provider has indicated they would not renew the voluntary contract extensions, so this came as a bit of a last-minute surprise. Wade is hopeful that bids will come back favorably for these sites, with service under the new agreements starting July 1, 2022.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that a new TikTok challenge caused schools across the country to take extra precautions on Friday, December 17th. The “December 17 Challenge” encouraged students to call in bomb or shooting threats to school buildings. Jody Bauer, ESU 11 Technology/Curriculum Consultant, was on top of this situation and notified superintendents, principals, and guidance counselors in our area of the potential threat Thursday evening when she learned of it. Many schools in our area elected to either notify parents of the threat, or ask for local law enforcement to have more of a presence at schools on Friday. Numerous schools across the country went into lockdown. Students were arrested in Florida, Minnesota, Washington, Maryland, and Arizona, after making threats. To the best of Kate’s knowledge, no threats were made to districts in the ESU 11 area.

Janelle Jack, Gifted Education Coordinator, reported that all but one Summer Honors instructor have confirmed returning for 2022. She has been promoting Summer Honors in the districts to encourage students to apply. Janelle reported that a total of \$3,470 was donated to the Summer Honors Program through Give to Grow, and that the match contributions is not yet known. Janelle has also been busy helping with 12 quiz bowls, tested 11 students, and visited 11 school districts during the month of December.

Lona Nelson-Milks, Special Education Director, reported that after the recent monitoring process of four districts, three districts were found to need a Corrective Action Plan for areas out of compliance. The CAPs are being developed with those districts and then training will be provided. Lona is currently looking to fill two positions within the Special Education Department: School Psychologist and Speech-Language Pathologist. Last, Lona reported that the SPED staff was asked to provide projected needs for each district they serve. This information was included in the Master Service Agreements that were sent out to superintendents in December.

Dr. Barnes, Unit Administrator, updated the board on the upcoming building projects. He reported that the redistricting maps were received last week and have been sent to all counties in our region as well as the Secretary of State office. Last, Dr. Barnes reminded the board of the KSB workshop on Wednesday, February 9th in Holdrege.

Motion made by Kim Scoville, seconded by Nate Stineman, to enter Executive Session at 5:54 p.m. to discuss personnel. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machel Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

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Board President, Richard Phillips, restated the reason for Executive Session is to discuss personnel.

Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Kim Scoville, to exit Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Machel Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Craig Philips, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Board President, Richard Phillips, declared the meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on January 17, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary