

**MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 17, 2022**

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 17, 2022 with the following members present: Chris Erickson, Mabelle Havenridge, Galen Kronhofman, Mary Oman, Richard Phillips, Gary Smidt, and Nate Stineman. Linda Leising, Craig Philips, and Kim Scoville 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 17, 2022 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU 11 during the week of October 3, 2022 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 Mabelle Havenridge, seconded by Galen Kronhofman, to excuse the absences of Linda Leising, Craig Philips, and Kim Scoville. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Mabelle Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

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 26, 2022. No questions were brought forward. Mr. John Poppert, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from September 2022 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Gary Smidt, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Mabelle Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Galen Kronhofman, seconded by Mary Oman, to appoint John Poppert as the state and federal programs administrator for ESU 11. Vote as follows: Chris Erickson, yes; Mabelle Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

John Poppert reported on behalf of Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, that in November the Nebraska Department of Education will be releasing designation and classification scores for all schools in the state. The state accountability classification is either Needs Support to Improve, Good, Great, or Excellent. This score is based on

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graduation rate, chronic absenteeism, English language proficiency, and academic achievement and progress based on growth and non-proficiency of the state test. The federal accountability focuses on student achievement and consistently underperforming subgroups (ELL, Low Socioeconomic, SPED, etc.) Schools identified with consistently low performing subgroups are required to create an improvement plan that is addressed in either their continuous improvement process or their special education targeted improvement process. Schools identified as a Priority School or Comprehensive Support and Improvement school will be required to receive assistance from NDE to improve.

Lona Nelson, Special Education Director, reported that on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, districts were notified that the provisionally approved Level III educational program at the Axtell Mosaic campus no longer had a certified teacher on staff and services were stopping. This notification was unexpected and impacts Axtell Community Schools due to state statute 79-215(c). Because Mosaic's residential facility is located within the school district of Axtell Community School, the Axtell School system becomes responsible for educational services, including special education, when the residential facility does not have an interim-program school. Many factors still need to be worked out regarding educational services for the school-aged residents at Mosaic. Axtell's Superintendent, legal counsel, NDE, Mosaic, and Lona have met several times to understand the state statute and to develop a plan. Next, Lona reported that the Central Region Transition Cadre hosted three workshops last week at ESU 17, ESU 10 and ESU 9. Each location had a great turnout of attendees. Lona mentioned the districts are working to clear errors and submit accurate Child Count numbers to NDE. The October Special Education Child Count is used in several ways. One of them is for Maintenance of Effort Child Count. Districts have until October 31<sup>st</sup> to clear errors and submit data. Last, Lona received notification that the Planning Region Team grant application was approved as well as the ESU's Service Agency application that sets the rates for special education services.

April Overholser, Speech Pathology Coordinator/Mental Health Facilitator, reported on the School Mental Health Grant that the ESU is partnering with through NDE to address mental health needs in schools. She shared statistics on children's mental health and talked about the expectations for ESUs participating in the mental health grant. In May 2022, ESU 11 hosted a Mental Health Institute for two of our school districts. April has been assisting those schools with development of their School Mental Health Team, identification of needed interventions and curriculums, and maintaining regular communication with the districts regarding their plans to support the students. Next year, the ESU is planning to provide support for at least two more districts that are interested in creating a school-based mental health program.

Mr. Poppert, Unit Administrator, reported on plans to remove the satellite dish north of the ESU 11 building. He reported that ESUs are not needed as the financial agent for the retention grant but will be happy to assist districts in applying for the grant. Mr. Poppert is currently researching options between EMC Insurance and ALICAP as our current insurance agent is no longer an agent for EMC. February 8<sup>th</sup> has been scheduled for the KSB presentation to our districts' superintendents and school boards. Jason Brohm, ESUCC Lobbyist, is also scheduled to join via Zoom to report on the Unicameral.

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Board President, Richard Phillips, declared the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on November 21, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary