

**MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2023**

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 August 21, 2023 with the following members present: Machelles Havenridge, Vickie Klein, Galen Kronhofman, Mary Oman, Gary Smidt, and Nate Stineman. Denis Reese, Richard Phillips, George Probasco, 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 August 21, 2023 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU 11 during the week of August 7, 2023 and broadcast over radio stations KUVR and KRVN. 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 the absence of Denis Reese, Richard Phillips, George Probasco, and Kim Scoville. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Mr. Poppert reviewed the consent agenda items, including the minutes from the June 19, 2023 meeting and the financial reports and claims. Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Vickie Klein to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Mr. Poppert updated the board on 9 out of 11 valuations that had been received as of Saturday, August 19. He is awaiting two more county valuations, and hope the mailings arrive today. He recommends postponing this agenda item to the September 18 board meeting. Motion made by Gary Smidt, seconded by Nate Stineman to postpone the resolution to raise restricted funds of the general fund budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Mary Oman, to accept the resignation of Occupational Therapist, BreighAnne Lawrence for the 2023-24 school

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year. Vote as follows: Machelie Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Motion made by Vickie Klein, seconded by Machelie Havenridge, to approve the certified contract for Occupational Therapist, Maura Rabe, for the 2023-24 school year. Vote as follows: Machelie Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Lona Nelson, Special Education Director, reported that ESU 11 hosted a Paraprofessional Training on July 31 with 32 participants. Topics discussed were: Confidentiality, Role/responsibility, Relationship building with those you work with, Behavior is a form of communication, and de-escalation strategies. Arapahoe's paraprofessionals were not in attendance at the ESU training date so another Paraprofessional Training was held in the district to support their staff. Lona reported that the Student Records System (SRS) Training for new users and administrators was held on August 7 as well as the ESU 11 New Staff Orientation that afternoon. Lona is also assisting districts as they apply for IDEA grant reimbursement. Last, Indicator 11, which reports the number of initial evaluations and if completed within the regulation time, is due August 31.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that the Staff Development Department has had a busy month thus far. Since August 1, Jody Bauer and Kate have conducted 13 different in-services in 14 days, and presented on the following topics: Data Analysis, Continuous Improvement, Generation Alpha, Chat GPT, Teacher Evaluation, Classroom Management, Professional Use of Social Media, Team Building, Math Instruction, Balancing Work and Home Life, Marzano Instructional Model, APL Instruction Model, Entry Level Assistance for New Teachers. Kate is now preparing to assist 8-9 schools in developing curriculum maps in all content areas and grade levels. In addition, she will be teaching a graduate class on Thursday evenings beginning on August 31. Kate reported she is working on final touches for the Fall Conference that will be held on October 2. Last, Kate, Mr. Poppert, and Steph Dannehl have been analyzing Summer Honors expenses. ESU 11 was able to reduce spending by \$6,000 this year as well as increase our receipts by \$25,000. Steph did a tremendous job with submitting grants and fund raising for the program. The Staff Development Department will work to be as efficient as possible in 2024.

Wade Gibson, Media/Technology Coordinator, reported to the Board that all ten new firewalls were successfully installed during the month of June. The six E-Rate category 2 projects with Hamilton Communications were also completed in late July and early August. Wade updated the Board on the status of the network build for the Axtell North facility at Mosaic, which is currently pending service installation with Spectrum. He also updated the Board on the status of the State & Local Cybersecurity Grant application, which is still pending approval.

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John Poppert, Unit Administrator, plans to have a special meeting of the board to review his proposed budget on Monday, August 28. The budget needs to be filed by September 30, so the September regular board meeting will remain as scheduled. Mr. Poppert briefly spoke about the ESU building and grounds and mentioned some carpet tiles need to be replaced. Mr. Poppert reminded the Board that the Continuous Improvement Process is scheduled for March 25-26. The Leadership Team has been meeting monthly and he believes they are making good progress on the ESU's goals. Mr. Poppert would like to review the ESU 11 Board policies starting with the 1000 and 2000 series. This review will be beneficial for our three new board members.

The next special meeting (budget work session) of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will occur on August 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 and the 2023-2024 Budget/Property Tax Hearings will be held on September 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Galen Kronhofman, Board Vice President, called the meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary