

**MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING**  
**November 20, 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 located at 412 West 14th Avenue in Holdrege, Nebraska on November 20, 2023 with the following members present: Mabelle Havenridge, Galen Kronhofman, Mary Oman, Denis Reese, George Probasco, Kim Scoville, and Nate Stineman. Vickie Klein, Richard Phillips, 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 November 20, 2023 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU 11 during the week of November 6, 2023, 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 Mary Oman, to excuse the absences of Vickie Klein, Richard Phillips, and Gary Smidt. Vote as follows: Mabelle Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; George Probasco, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Richard Phillips arrived at 5:02 p.m.

Board Vice President, Galen Kronhofman, asked the board members if they had any questions on the regular board meeting minutes from October 16, 2023. No questions were brought forward. Mr. John Poppert, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from October 2023 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by George Probasco, seconded by Kim Scoville, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Mabelle Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Denis Reese, yes; George Probasco, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by Richard Phillips, seconded by Denis Reese, to approve the purchase of Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce Bucks for all staff. Vote as follows: Mabelle Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Denis Reese, yes; George Probasco, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes.

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Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by George Probasco, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to approve rescheduling the next Board Meeting to Friday, December 15 at 10:30 a.m. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Denis Reese, yes; George Probasco, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Mr. Poppert reviewed board policies 3031-3061 and asked if the board members had any questions on each policy. No questions were brought forward. Motion made by Denis Reese, seconded by Mary Oman, to approve the review of board policies 3031-3061. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Denis Reese, yes; George Probasco, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Richard Phillips shared the administrator evaluation results with board members and had a brief discussion.

Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by George Probasco, to offer a two-year contract for the ESU 11 Administrator, John Poppert, effective at the end of the 2023-24 school year. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Denis Reese, yes; George Probasco, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Lona Nelson, Director of Special Education, reported that on November 15, the ESU Special Education Department hosted an ESU-Wide Special Education Meeting with 56 attendees. Jordan Johnson from KSB Law presented information in the morning and ESU 11's Special Education Leadership Team presented information in the afternoon. Lona reported that the twelve districts' SPEDFRS supported by ESU 11 were submitted to NDE by October 31. NDE will begin reviewing in January. Lona mentioned that two districts within ESU 11 have been identified in the Cautionary Zone for Disproportionate Representation. Each district is to upload its Improving Learning for Children with Disabilities site. Lona will be working with districts to upload information that is due on December 12. Lona gave an update on the Axtell North school site. ESU and Axtell's staff are working collaboratively to support students, families, and districts in implementing solid educational services. The team and program continue to grow; the growth is evident.

Wade Gibson, Media Technology Coordinator, reported to the Board about the recent LAN Managers meeting on October 11, the Librarians and Media Specialists meeting on October 18 in Wilcox/Hildreth, and the Nebraska State Cybersecurity Conference on October 31. Wade also updated the Board on the progress of the installation of a permanent data circuit at the Axtell North facility on the Mosaic campus. Progress is being made with the Mosaic Information Technology department and Charter-Spectrum to get this service installed and traversing the campus fiber optic to make the final connection. Wade hopes to have this wrapped up before the end of the year.

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Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that the AQuESTT Classification and the Designation Federal Accountability data results have been released to schools and will be released to the public this week. All of the schools in our area that were identified as ATSI scored high enough in those demographic categories to have that designation removed. This year three other schools have been identified as ATSI and one that has a CSI designation. This means that these schools have one or more student groups performing at or below the performance level of students in Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools. CSI schools are the lowest five percent of Title I Schools. Kate has begun assisting these districts and have identified potential data points that can be further examined in order to identify the possible root cause of this problem. Next, Kate reported that the ESU Nebraska Digital Citizenship Symposium was held in-person on October 16 for the first time since 2019. Bertrand and Minden along with twenty other districts were in attendance with a total of 160 participants. During the course of the day, schools worked to create a school vision, strategic plans, and/or calls to action for technology usage. Throughout the academic year, teams will document their progress and reconvene virtually in April to share and celebrate the successful implementation of their initiatives. Last, Kate reported that the Give2Grow initial donation total for the Summer Honors Program is \$8,650. This does not include our portion of the match and any prizes we may have won. SHP will be replacing the Ag class with Psychology for the 2024 year. An Ag instructor could not be secured for 2024. SHP focuses on providing classes students may not have in their own schools and psychology was a class the students really wanted according to the SHP survey; therefore, a contract has been offered to an instructor. Steph Dannehl, HAL Instructor, has submitted the NDE HAL grant on behalf of the ESU 11 districts. Schools were notified of their grant awards last week.

Mr. Poppert, Unit Administrator, informed the board that the Educators Health Alliance (EHA) premiums would increase 1.99% for the 2024-2025 year; that is the lowest increase in the past several years. ESU 11's Conference Room A needs the sound system replaced that is currently not working. Mr. Poppert is also looking into updating the screens and projectors to large monitors. He mentioned that the ESU is still waiting for the final approval of the Cybersecurity grant. Last, Mr. Poppert reported on the Governor and NDE Commissioner sessions at the State School Board meetings.

Board Vice President, Galen Kronhofman, declared the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on December 15, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary