

**MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING**  
**December 15, 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 December 15, 2023 with the following members present: Machelles Havenridge, Galen Kronhofman, Mary Oman, Richard Phillips, George Probasco, and Gary Smidt. Vickie Klein, Denis Reese, Kim Scoville, and Nate Stineman 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 15, 2023 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU 11 during the week of December 4, 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 Machelles Havenridge, seconded by Galen Kronhofman, to excuse the absence of Vickie Klein, Denis Reese, Kim Scoville, and Nate Stineman. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; George Probasco, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

No visitors present at the board meeting.

Board President, Richard Phillips, asked the board members if they had any questions on the regular board meeting minutes from November 20, 2023. No questions were brought forward. Mr. Poppert, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from November 2023 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by Galen Kronhofman, seconded by George Probasco, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; George Probasco, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Mr. Poppert briefly spoke about the audio and visual updates needed in Conference Room A. He and Wade Gibson contacted two audio companies to bid the project. The last bid would be returned on December 18th. Motion made by Galen Kronhofman, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to give authority to Mr. Poppert to accept the best priced bid. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; George Probasco, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

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Motion made by George Probasco, seconded by Gary Smidt, to accept the bid to replace all lights in Conference Room A to LED lights. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; George Probasco, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Wade Gibson, Media Technology Coordinator, reported that the annual ESU 11 evaluation recently concluded on December 10, and the ESU-wide response rate was 26.7%, down a little from last year. Wade mentioned that the survey, which is traditionally conducted in January, was moved up to December this year so the data could be discussed in upcoming Zoom meetings with area Administrators. Wade also mentioned that the SLCG (State & Local Cybersecurity Grant) is still in a holding pattern, awaiting funding to be released by the state. He noted that the internet service installation for the Axtell North facility at Mosaic is scheduled for the upcoming week. Wade mentioned that the E-Rate filing season will be getting started after the first of the year, and they will be working with area school districts to replace wireless access points using remaining E-Rate Category 2 funding.

Lona Nelson, Special Education Director, reviewed the district projected needs for the 2024-25 school year to determine staffing. Board members were invited to step into a training for ESU 11 early intervention providers, which included their children. The training focused on practicing and engaging in hands-on early intervention strategies. Board members had a chance to hear from various providers about how they directly support children and families. Board members had a chance to ask questions and meet ESU 11 Special Education staff.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that she and Jody Bauer have started the second round of curriculum mapping workshops. These workshops are going very well, and NDE is pleased with the format that they are using and the work that teachers are doing. Kate and Jody will also be providing numerous professional development sessions for six districts on January 2nd and 3rd. Topics for these in-services include: mission statement revision, data retreat, de-escalation strategies, vision for mathematics, Google tools for the classroom, and Canva for education. Last, Kate reported that twenty-one CTE teachers in our area requested Perkins funds to purchase approximately \$40,000 worth of equipment to modernize their CTE programs this year. To date, all but four of those requests have been filled. Schools have been notified that they must all engage in the reVISION process since the current grant cycle will be ending this year. This involves an extensive review of each district's CTE programs. Kate will be using this information to write the new Perkins grant later this spring. She will assist schools with this on January 29th.

Mr. Poppert, Unit Administrator, reported that this year the Leadership Team will be meeting with districts via Zoom to discuss the ESU 11 survey results, specific needs for their district, and what the ESU has planned for the upcoming year. The majority of these meetings will be on January 4th and 5th. Mr. Poppert also reminded the Board of the evening workshop with KSB Law on January 31st.

Motion made by Galen Kronhofman, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to enter executive session at 11:54 a.m. to discuss the Administrator's contract. Vote as follows:

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Machelle Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; George Probasco, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent.

Mr. Phillips restated the reason for entering executive session was to discuss the Administrator's contract.

Motion made by Machelle Havenridge, seconded by Gary Smidt, to exit executive session at 11:56 a.m. **Vote as follows: Machelle Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; George Probasco, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent. (Correction approved on 1.15.24)**

Board President, Richard Phillips, declared the meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on January 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary