

**MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 15, 2024**

The Board of Educational Service Unit #11 of the State of Nebraska, hereinafter referred to as ESU 11, held its regular monthly meeting at the Office Building in Holdrege, Nebraska on January 15, 2024 with the following members present: Vickie Klein, Galen Kronhofman, Mary Oman, Denis Reese, Richard Phillips, Kim Scoville, and Gary Smidt. Machelles Havenridge, George Probasco, and Nate Stineman 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 January 15, 2024 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU 11 during the week of January 1, 2024 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 Galen Kronhofman, seconded Kim Scoville, to excuse the absence of Machelles Havenridge, George Probasco, and Nate Stineman. Vote as follows: Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

The next item on the agenda called for the election of officers to serve a one-year term of office on the Board. The offices to be filled were President, Vice President, and Secretary. Motion made by Kim Scoville, seconded by Gary Smidt, to keep the President, Vice President, and Secretary officers the same in 2024 as they were in 2023: Richard Phillips, President; Galen Kronhofman, Vice President; Mary Oman, Secretary. Vote as follows: Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Vickie Klein, seconded by Mary Oman, to appoint Amanda Helms as Board Treasurer from February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025. Vote as follows: Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Board Members discussed standing committees and President Phillips assigned committee members as follows: Budget Committee – Machelles Havenridge, George Probasco, Galen Kronhofman (Chair); Policy Committee – Mary Oman, Nate Stineman, Gary Smidt (Chair); Contract Negotiations Committee – Vickie Klein, Denis Reese, Kim Scoville (Chair).

ESU #11 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 15, 2024

PAGE 2

Board President, Richard Phillips, asked the board members if they had any questions on the regular board meeting minutes from December 15, 2023. Vickie Klein mentioned that no vote was recorded for exiting the executive session. Correction: motion carried to exit executive session 6 yes, 0 no, 4 absent. Motion made by Gary Smidt, seconded by Kim Scoville to approve the minutes as corrected. Vote as follows: Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Mr. John Poppert, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from December 2023 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by Galen Kronhofman, seconded by Denis Reese, to approve the financial reports and claims for payment as presented. Vote as follows: Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Vickie Klein, seconded by Denis Reese, to designate KSB School Law as the ESU 11 legal counsel. Vote as follows: Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Denis Reese, seconded by Mary Oman, to approve the designated banks and accounts as presented, and to authorize ESU 11 Administrator, John Poppert, and the ESU 11 Treasurer, Amanda Helms, as signers for all Non-General Fund accounts. Further, to have ESU 11 Board Chairperson Richard Phillips, Secretary Mary Oman, alternate board member Vickie Klein, and Administrator John Poppert (alternate), as authorized signers for General Fund checks from Bruning Bank. Vote as follows: Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Galen Kronhofman, seconded by Kim Scoville, to approve the Newspapers of Record as presented. Vote as follows: Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Mr. Poppert reviewed 4000s board policies and asked if the board members had any questions on each policy. No questions were brought forward. Motion made by Vickie Klein, seconded by Mary Oman, to approve the review of the 4000s board policies. Vote as follows: Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Gary Smidt, seconded by Kim Scoville, to approve the bid from Yanda's Music and Pro Audio for video and audio updates to Conference Room A. Vote as follows: Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese,

ESU #11 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 15, 2024

PAGE 3

yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Galen Kronhofman, seconded by Vickie Klein, to approve the Administrator's contract for 2024-2026 as presented. Vote as follows: Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Lona Nelson, Special Education Director, reported that ESU 11 will host a Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) on March 11. She noted that the third and final cohort for the Mental Health Institute will be held on February 12 and February 22. NDE will begin reviewing SPEDFRS this month and will reach out for additional information if they have questions about the information submitted in October. Last, Lona reported that Planning Region Team 11 will be monitored during February and will have a follow-up meeting with state co-leads in April.

Wade Gibson, Media/Technology Coordinator, reported that the E-Rate filing season opens this Wednesday, January 17, and closes on March 27. Wade is currently working with area Superintendents and Technology Coordinators to develop RFPs to replace aging wireless access points and switches throughout the ESU 11 area. He estimates that nearly 800 wireless access points could be requested through the E-Rate bidding process, which would be targeted for installation in June and July of 2024. Wade also mentioned that the Librarians meeting was coming up on February 1, and would be hosted at Southern Valley Schools.

Jody Bauer, Technology Curriculum Consultant, reported that one of the biggest topics several ESUs are focusing on is Artificial Intelligence (AI). Jody has presented to most of the ESU 11 schools on AI. Her main focus is helping teachers get familiar with AI such as ChatGPT and other tools so they can enhance their understanding and readiness to engage with this emerging technology. Jody is also attending teacher in-services to provide guidance on Google Tools for the Classroom and Canva For Education. Last, she reported that the final Entry Year workshop with new teachers is scheduled for next week. She will be sharing some technology tools to promote student engagement. In the upcoming weeks, Jody and Kate Hatch will host the follow-up PLC workshops where teachers can work on finishing their curriculum maps.

Mr. John Poppert, Unit Administrator, updated the Board on legislative bills and the ESU building and grounds. He also reminded the board of the KSB Hot Topics Presentation on January 31 for ESU 11-Wide board members and administrators. On January 4 and 5, Mr. Poppert and the Leadership Team met with all ESU 11 districts to review survey results and discuss needs for the upcoming school year. He felt these meetings were very beneficial in preparation for the next year. Mr. Poppert also gave an update on the Summer Honors Program. As of today, 195 nominations have been submitted. All nominations must be submitted by January 26.

ESU #11 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 15, 2024

PAGE 4

The next meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on February 19, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Richard Phillips, Board President, declared the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary