

**MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 11, 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 March 11, 2024. Galen Kronhofman, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Machelles Havenridge, Vickie Klein, Galen Kronhofman, Mary Oman, Denis Reese, Kim Scoville, Gary Smidt, and Nate Stineman. Richard Phillips and George Probasco 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 March 11, 2024 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU 11 during the week of March 4, 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 Machelles Havenridge, seconded by Vickie Klein, to excuse the absence of Richard Phillips and George Probasco. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

No visitors were present.

Mr. Poppert reviewed the consent agenda items, including the minutes from the January 15, 2024 meeting and the financial reports and claims. Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Gary Smidt, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by Kim Scoville, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to accept the resignation of Mila Bednar, Speech Language Pathologist, at the end of the 2023-24 contract year. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by Gary Smidt, seconded by Vickie Klein, to accept the resignation of Amber Kenney, Speech Language Pathologist, at the end of the 2023-24 contract year. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes;

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Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by Denis Reese, seconded by Mary Oman, to accept the resignation of Terri Kevorkian, Special Education Teacher, at the end of the 2023-24 contract year. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Denis Reese, to accept the 2022-23 Audit Report from Romans, Wiemer & Associates as presented. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by Machelles Havenridge, seconded by Gary Smidt, to declare the Smart Buddies Kit purchased with GEER funds as excess equipment. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Denis Reese, to approve the 2024-25 ESU 11 Calendar as presented. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Lona Nelson, Special Education Director, reported on staffing and that she continues to look for a Speech Language Pathologist and School Psychologist. Staffing assignments will be made after hiring has been completed. On March 11, the ESU hosted a Targeted Improvement Plan Day with NDE. Thirty-nine people were in attendance with twelve of the thirteen ESU 11 districts represented. NDE continues to promote connecting plans. Next, Lona reported on the Indicator 13 (Post-Secondary Transition) Training. The training was part of the districts' Corrective Action Plans after NDE reviewed district's submitted information related to required components. Last, Lona updated the board on the Axtell North school. The program has come a long way since August, and they continue to work on moving forward with practices that support the students and districts.

Wade Gibson, Media/Technology Coordinator, reported that the thirteen E-Rate Category 2 RFPs recently closed for bidding. All projects received bids, and he is working with Superintendents to finalize contracts and proceed with E-Rate form 471 filing. He also updated the Board on changes with ESU 11's four SNDEN (Southwest Distance Education Network) districts. Wade will begin filing E-Rate for their circuits as they prepare to exit the consortium. He noted that Yanda's was working to install the new audio/video equipment in Conference Room A last week, and they are nearing

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completion, with a damaged TV being the only major hold up. Last, Wade provided the Board with an update on the status of the State & Local Cybersecurity Grant.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that March is the month for CIP External Visits. Holdrege, Southern Valley, and ESU 11 all have External Visits this month. Wilcox-Hildreth has their External Visit in April. Jody Bauer and Kate will be presenting at the NETA Conference in March. Their session is entitled *Generation Alpha and the PRICE of Social Media*. Last, Kate reported that the Carl Perkins 4-year plan needs to be written this year. Areas of focus in the grant include: provide funding to modernize CTE programs; expand work-based learning opportunities in schools; continue working to expand career development opportunities in grades K-12; provide career planning for every student; and develop personal learning plans for each student.

Mr. John Poppert, Unit Administrator, gave a legislative update on LB 1414 and LB 1316 and how they can affect ESUs. He reported that a few ESU 11 schools are interested in an English Language Learner Teacher (ELL) to provide additional support for students in need. Last, Mr. Poppert shared that he will be attending the NETA Conference in Omaha at the end of the week.

The next meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on April 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was declared adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary