

**MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING
APRIL 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 April 15, 2024 with the following members present: Machelles Havenridge, Galen Kronhofman, Mary Oman, Richard Phillips, George Probasco, Kim Scoville, and Gary Smidt. Vickie Klein, Denis Reese, 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 April 15, 2024 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU 11 during the week of April 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 George Probasco, seconded by Mary Oman, to excuse the absences of Vickie Klein, Denis Reese, and Nate Stineman. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; George Probasco, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

No visitors were present.

Vickie Klein arrived at 7:01 p.m.

Mr. Poppert reviewed the consent agenda items, including the minutes from the March 11, 2024 meeting and the financial reports and claims. Motion made by Galen Kronhofman, 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; Richard Phillips, yes; George Probasco, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by Machelles Havenridge, seconded by Kim Scoville, to approve a certified contract to Carol Keiser, Speech Language Pathologist, for the 2024-25 school year. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; George Probasco, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Motion made by George Probasco, seconded by Vickie Klein, to approve the bid from Husker Auto Group for the purchase of a 2024 Chevy Malibu. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; George Probasco, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Mr. Poppert reviewed the commendations and recommendations from the ESU 11 External Visit. Board Members were able to ask questions and discuss the findings of the report.

Motion made by Galen Kronhofman, seconded by Mary Oman, to accept the IXL, Imagine Learning, and OnTo College quotes for the 2024-25 school year as presented. Vote as follows: Machel Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; George Probasco, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 2 absent.

Lona Nelson, Special Education Director, reported that the Maintenance of Effort Compliance Standard report is due on May 10th. She is helping Superintendents who request assistance in reviewing the information and submitting the report to NDE. The Promoting Engagement and Knowledge (PEaK) grant application is due on May 1st. NDE has changed the application process so Lona is working with districts to gather the required information in order to complete. Lona reported she is working to complete staff assignments for the 2024-25 school year. The process has been delayed due to the continued search for an SLP. Lona mentioned that NDE has been contacted regarding LB 71, which allows children to be in preschool until age 6. However, Rule 11, regulations for a district based preschool program, outlines the preschool program is for 3 and 4 year old students. With the new bill passed, the two conflict with one another, so NDE is reviewing LB 71 and Rule 11 language in order to offer guidance. Last, Planning Region Team 11 will have the Exit Monitoring Meeting with State Co-Leads on Tuesday, April 16th. If areas of compliance are noted to be in non-compliance, a Corrective Action Plan will be developed to support early childhood providers in learning and addressing the non-compliance areas.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that she and Jody Bauer have been meeting with the administrative teams from all ESU 11 school districts to determine professional development plans for next year. They have also built time into the schedule to assist districts in completing curriculum maps. Each district is at a different stage in this process, so this year will focus on “filling the gaps” for most districts. Kate is working with ESU 10 to determine how to best assist area school districts next year in attaining APL instructional model/classroom management/student engagement training for new teachers in the coming years. Jody will be providing professional development to schools in the form of digital citizenship, educational tech tools, google tools, and using artificial intelligence in education. Kate reported that 11 middle school and high school teams in our area qualify for State Future Problem Solving in Kearney on April 20th: 5 teams from Minden, 3 teams from Franklin, 2 from Axtell, and 1 from Southern Valley. The quiz bowl regular season has also wrapped up with Cambridge and Southern Valley high school teams qualifying for State Quiz Bowl in Hastings on April 24th. Kate reported that Stephanie Dannehl has shifted her focus to Summer Honors and is awaiting students to complete registration. Eleven instructors will offer the following classes: Architecture, Art, Computer Science, Creative Writing, Drama, Film, Logic, Math, Medical Science, and Psychology. At this time, we are still not certain if drama will be offered due to a low number of registrations. Same as last year, no night activities will be scheduled for Tuesdays of Summer Honors. Summer Honors begins on June 10th. The SHP reception is June 21st at The Tassel from 10-10:30 a.m. with graduation to follow.

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Wade Gibson, Media/Technology Coordinator, reported to the Board a status update on this year's E-Rate Category 2 funding applications. Wade submitted applications on behalf of each of the thirteen ESU 11 districts, and nine of those are already marked as wave ready, indicating that a funding commitment is imminent. He anticipates the remaining four will also be funded prior to summer. Wade also mentioned that progress is being made with the State & Local Cybersecurity Grant objectives. Wade has been meeting with the partner, ResoluteGuard, on a regular basis and is preparing each district for their internal scans. He also noted that around 60 Linux servers in the ESU 11 area will be updated in the coming weeks as a new long-term-stable operating system is due to be released. Last, Wade mentioned that he was in Fremont last week as a member of the ESU 2 external visitation team.

Mr. Poppert, Unit Administrator, gave a legislative update as well as reported on the building and grounds. He reported that Mrs. Polk will lead ESUCC (formerly ESU 7) after Kraig Lofquist's final day. The last Superintendent Advisory Meeting is set for April 24th. Presentations include a legislative update from NCSA, revised AQuESTT platform from NDE, and a group presentation from Planning Region Team 11.

The next meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on May 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Richard Phillips declared the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary