

**MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2024**

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 in Holdrege, Nebraska on August 19, 2024 with the following members present: Machelles Havenridge, Vickie Klein, Galen Kronhofman, Mary Oman, George Probasco, Denis Reese, Kim Scoville, Gary Smidt, and Nate Stineman. Richard Phillips was 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 August 19, 2024 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU 11 during the week of August 5, 2024 and broadcast over radio stations KUVR and KRVN. 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 Gary Smidt, seconded by Vickie Klein, to excuse the absence of Richard Phillips. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

No visitors were present.

Mr. Poppert reviewed the consent agenda items, including the minutes from the June 17, 2024 meeting and the financial reports and claims. Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by Kim Scoville to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by Nate Stineman, seconded by George Probasco, to accept the resolution to raise restricted funds (property tax) portion of the general fund budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year by the allowable rate of one percent, in accordance with the provisions set forth in LB 299. Vote as follows: Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, no; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 1 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by Kim Scoville, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to approve the certified contract for Lynse Schmidt, School Psychologist, for the 2024-25 school year.

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Vote as follows: Machelie Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by Denis Reese, seconded by Kim Scoville, to approve the agreement to participate in the Give2Grow fundraiser. Vote as follows: Machelie Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; Mary Oman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; Gary Smidt, yes; and Nate Stineman, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Lona Nelson, Special Education Director, reported that ESU 11 staff are currently serving their assigned districts. Due to recent staffing changes, two SLPs have been reassigned to different schools to better meet the needs of our districts. Lona reported that districts have received their District Determination based on data collected on their performance of various indicators. NDE changed the process two years ago, which has been significantly different and caused determination levels to change for most districts across the state. Lona will be working to schedule times with administration and special education staff to review the district's data and explore ways to support areas of High and Medium Risk. Next, Lona will present on developing a Prior Written Notice at the Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association Conference on September 19. She and April Overholser will also attend the UNK Career Fair on September 5. The career fair is an opportunity to meet, interact, and share about ESU 11 with future educators. Lona mentioned she is helping districts review their Maintenance of Effort Tracking Tool, which will help determine how much of their IDEA grant funds they can request for reimbursement. She also hosted the Level 1 and Level 2 Paraprofessional Trainings at ESU 11.

Wade Gibson, Media/Technology Coordinator, reported on the summer projects that have all been completed. All thirteen ESU 11 districts have now been upgraded to full 1,000 Mbps circuits after this year's statewide circuit bids. Wade mentioned that he coordinated the application and installation of E-Rate category 2 projects for all thirteen districts, which included 740 wireless access points, 99 switches, and 18 UPS battery backups. Altogether, these projects netted over \$238,000 in savings for ESU 11 districts by leveraging federal E-Rate funding.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that many new teachers are in the ESU 11 area. During the week of July 29, Kate worked with approximately 50 new teachers from 10 different districts. Kate and Jody Bauer conducted 14 in-services for districts between August 7th and 19th. Last week during ESU 11's opening day, Jody and Kate facilitated the mission revision/review process. During the course of professional conversation, the staff decided on the following as the new ESU 11 mission statement: *The ESU 11 mission is to develop meaningful partnerships and deliver quality services to enrich the educational environment, empowering lifelong learners.* Kate reported that the Nebraska Literacy Project has been developed by NDE and the Commissioner of Education. This project has identified the following goals: increase third grade proficiency on NSCAS ELA from 62% to 75% by 2030; increase the percentage of

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Nebraska K-3 students who meet the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act approved assessment thresholds, thus reducing the percent of students who require an Individual Reading Improvement Plan. NDE is working to provide regional coaches to approved or accredited elementary schools to provide assistance and trainings relating to evidence-based reading instruction to kindergarten through third grade teachers. Last, Mr. Poppert, Kate, and Steph Dannehl have been analyzing Summer Honors expenses. Approximately \$45,000 was brought in with student tuition and fund raising. SHP expenses decreased by \$1,000 as compared to last year. They will continue to work to be as efficient as possible in 2025.

John Poppert, Unit Administrator, plans to have a special meeting of the board to review his proposed budget on Monday, August 26. The budget needs to be filed by September 30, so the September regular board meeting will remain as scheduled. Mr. Poppert briefly spoke about the ESU building and grounds and mentioned some sprinkler heads need to be raised. Mr. Poppert reported that the AESA Conference is in Orlando on December 4th-6th, and expressed his interest in attending along with the leadership team and interested board members.

The next special meeting (budget work session) of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will occur on August 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 and the 2024-2025 Budget/Property Tax Hearings will be held on September 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Galen Kronhofman, Board Vice President, called the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary

BOARD RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Board of Educational Service Unit No. 11 believes it is in the best interest of ESU #11 to raise the restricted fund portion of the 2024-25 general fund budget by 1%, over the restricted fund portion of the 2023-24 general fund budget of ESU #11 as allowed by law;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the 2024-25 general fund budget of ESU #11 be authorized in an amount of 1%, over the 2023-24 general fund budget of ESU #11, and that this resolution be adopted by an affirmative vote of 75% of the board.

Roll Call Vote as follows this 19th day of August, 2024:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Vickie Klein	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Machelle Havenridge	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Galen Kronhofman	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
George Probasco	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Mary Oman	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Denis Reese	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Richard Phillips	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>
Kim Scoville	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Gary Smidt	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Nate Stineman	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>