

**MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 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 October 21, 2024 with the following members present: Vickie Klein, Mary Oman, Richard Phillips, George Probasco, Denis Reese, Kim Scoville, and Gary Smidt. Mabelle Havenridge, Galen Kronhofman, 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 October 21, 2024 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU 11 during the week of October 7, 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 Kim Scoville, to excuse the absences of Mabelle Havenridge, Galen Kronhofman, and Nate Stineman. Vote as follows: Vickie Klein, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Board President, Richard Phillips, asked the board members if they had any questions on the minutes from the Budget Hearing, Tax Request Hearing, and regular Board Meeting held on September 16, 2024. No questions were brought forward. Mr. John Poppert, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from September 2024 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by Vickie Klein, seconded by Mary Oman, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Vickie Klein, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Gary Smidt, seconded by Denis Reese, to appoint John Poppert as the state and federal programs administrator for ESU 11. Vote as follows: Vickie Klein, yes; Mary Oman, yes; Richard Phillips, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported one district in the ESU 11 area had a CSI (Comprehensive Support and Improvement) designation. This means that it has been identified as one of the lowest performing 5% of Title I schools, which are schools that receive federal funds due to poverty. This school has elected to receive instructional coaching support this year from a group that is contracted with NDE that focuses on

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literacy acceleration. There are two schools in the ESU 11 area that have an ATSI (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement) designation because their special education and free and reduced lunch populations are performing below the lowest 5% of Title I schools. One of these schools is currently participating in the Nebraska WORDS project. This project provides professional development on high quality reading instruction at the elementary level. This school is also taking the knowledge learned from this project and offering after school tutoring to students who are not meeting necessary grade level reading benchmarks. These schools have 2 more years to improve student achievement and get this designation removed. Next, Kate reported that Nebraska Revised Statute 79-2607 requires the (NDE) to establish a professional learning system related to evidence-based reading instruction. This will be done with the establishment of Literacy Coaches at each ESU and will assist districts in meeting the following goals: Increase third grade proficiency on NSCAS ELA to 75% by 2030; increase the percentage of Nebraska K-3 students who meet the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act approved assessment thresholds. Kate will work to determine the most effective and efficient ways to assist our districts in accomplishing these goals once we are informed of the money that we will be receiving.

Wade Gibson, Media/Technology Coordinator, updated the Board on several projects currently underway. Two school districts are in the process of replacing their phone systems, which requires ESU 11 support from the networking side to ensure smooth setup and operation. Minden has also had fiber optic pulled to several locations in the football field area, and ESU 11 is now ready to begin installing switches in those areas. Wade updated the Board on a virtual server migration project slated for the upcoming year. The current virtual server environment is no longer being offered with a free tier and will eventually become end-of-life. Wade mentioned they tested two different virtual environments and have chosen Proxmox as the platform moving forward. There are 115 virtual servers currently running in the area that will all need to be migrated to Proxmox. Wade also mentioned that he and Alex are testing an open source XDR (extended detection and response) as well as SIEM (security information and event management) platform as part of the continued cybersecurity efforts throughout the area.

Mr. Poppert, Unit Administrator, reported that he is planning to host the Hot Topics meeting on January 29th. Superintendents and their school boards will be invited to attend. Pella Windows is planning to install windows in early November, and the company repairing the stucco will be at the unit in the next two weeks. Mr. Poppert attended the AESA Symposium in Omaha. Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin were all present at the conference. Each state presented to the group about what they are doing at their ESUs and what the schools are requesting from them.

Motion made by George Probasco, seconded by Kim Scoville, to enter Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss negotiations. Board President, Richard Phillips, restated the reason for Executive Session was to discuss negotiations.

Motion made by George Probasco, seconded by Vickie Klein, to exit Executive Session at 8:32 p.m.

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Board President, Richard Phillips, declared the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on November 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Oman, Board Secretary