

**MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2025**

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 20, 2025 with the following members present: Deanne Favinger, Machelles Havenridge, Vickie Klein, Galen Kronhofman, George Probasco, Denis Reese, Kim Scoville, and Gary Smidt.

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 20, 2025 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU 11 during the week of January 6, 2025 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.

No visitors were present.

Motion made by Kim Scoville, seconded by Galen Kronhofman, to appoint board members Caroline Erickson (District 4) and Anita Krejdl (District 8). Vote as follows: Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 8 yes, 0 no, 0 absent.

Next, all newly appointed board members, Caroline Erickson and Anita Krejdl, as well as elected board members, Deanne Favinger, Denis Reese, Machelles Havenridge, must sign the ESU 11 Board Oath of Office. All ten board members then signed the Board Code of Ethics.

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 George Probasco, to nominate Galen Kronhofman as Board President. Motion made by Deanne Favinger, seconded by Denis Reese, to cease nominations and declare Galen Kronhofman the winner. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; Galen Kronhofman, abstain; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, 0 absent. Motion made by Kim Scoville, to nominate George Probasco as Board Vice President. Motion made by Deanne Favinger, seconded by Denis Reese, to cease nominations and declare George Probasco the winner. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; George Probasco, abstain; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, 0 absent.

ESU #11 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 20, 2025

PAGE 2

Motion made by Denis Reese to nominate Vickie Klein as Board Secretary. Motion made by Deanne Favinger, seconded by Caroline Erickson, to cease nominations and declare Vickie Klein the winner. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelle Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, abstain; Anita Krejdl, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, 0 absent.

Motion made by Deanne Favinger, seconded by George Probasco, to appoint Amanda Helms as Board Treasurer from February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2026. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelle Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 10 yes, 0 no, 0 absent.

Board Members discussed standing committees: budget, policy, and contract; and whether it is necessary to keep these committees due to lack of use and no outstanding actions that require immediate attention. Motion made by Deanne Favinger, seconded by George Probasco, that current standing committees, budget, policy, and contract, be officially disbanded, effective immediately, and to continue with committee of whole. While the committees will be disbanded at this time, it is understood that their functions and responsibilities may be reestablished as deemed necessary by the ESU 11 Board President. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelle Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 10 yes, 0 no, 0 absent.

Board President, Galen Kronhofman, asked the board members if they had any questions on the regular board meeting minutes from December 16, 2024. No questions were brought forward. Mr. John Poppert, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from December 2024 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by Machelle Havenridge, seconded by Vickie Klein, to approve consent agenda as presented. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelle Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 10 yes, 0 no, 0 absent.

Motion made by Deanne Favinger, seconded by Denis Reese, to designate KSB School Law as the ESU 11 legal counsel. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelle Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 10 yes, 0 no, 0 absent.

Motion made by Deanne Favinger, seconded by George Probasco, 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 Galen Kronhofman, Secretary Vickie Klein, alternate board member Caroline Erickson, and Administrator

ESU #11 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 20, 2025

PAGE 3

John Poppert (alternate), as authorized signers for General Fund checks from Bruning Bank. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machel Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 10 yes, 0 no, 0 absent.

Motion made by Machel Havenridge, seconded by Kim Scoville, to approve the Newspapers of Record as presented. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machel Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 10 yes, 0 no, 0 absent.

Motion made by Vickie Klein, seconded by Deanne Favinger, to approve the 2025-2026/2026-2027 Terms and Conditions as presented. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machel Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 10 yes, 0 no, 0 absent.

Lona Nelson, Special Education Director, reported that ESU 11 hosted a Special Education Training with Jordan Johnson from KSB Law, providing information about compliance-driven practices. The information was very beneficial for special education providers. April Overholser, Logann Collin, and Lona will visit Centennial, Seward, and Milford school districts on January 27 and 28 with the ESU 5 Mental Health providers who serve those districts. The goal is to learn and expand our view of school-based mental health services. Nebraska Public School Advantage will be developing a story on ESU 5's experience of growing mental health services within schools and supporting other ESUs in building a comprehensive school-based program. Lona and April will be attending the UNK Spring Career Fair on January 23 to make connections with future graduates. Lona also has the opportunity to speak to Vic Young's Family Engagement class at UNK on February 13. Last, Lona reported on the Early Childhood department and that 52 children are currently being served. Part C (birth to 3) is providing service to 36 children, and ages 3-5 is providing service to 16 children.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, will be assisting two schools in the area with learning acceleration in the area of literacy. This work aligns with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) Literacy Project. These two schools are working with outside consultant groups that have been contracted through NDE to provide these specific services to schools in the state. It is a good learning opportunity for Kate as she will be able to replicate much of this work to help the other school districts in our area. Kate reported that NDE is currently seeking public and educator feedback on the current Fine Arts, Physical Education, Social Studies, and World Language standards. They are specifically interested in feedback regarding the content and rigor of the current standards. The information gathered will be part of the standards review process in these content areas, which will begin in the near future. This survey will close on January 31, 2025. You may access the survey via the following link if you would like to provide feedback: [2026 Nebraska Standards Review Initial Input Survey](#).

ESU #11 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 20, 2025

PAGE 4

Mr. John Poppert, Unit Administrator, updated the Board on the following legislative bills: LB 84, LB 300, and LB 131. He also provided a brief update on the ESU building and grounds. Mr. Poppert reminded the board of the Perry Law Hot Topics Presentation on January 29th for ESU 11 school district board members and administrators. On January 6-8, 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.

Motion made by George Probasco, seconded by Kim Scoville, to enter Executive Session at 5:55 p.m. to discuss negotiations. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 10 yes, 0 no, 0 absent.

Board President, Galen Kronhofman, restated the reason of Executive Session is to discuss negotiations.

Motion made by Machelles Havenridge, seconded by George Probasco, to exit Executive Session at 6:03 p.m. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; Galen Kronhofman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 10 yes, 0 no, 0 absent.

The next meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on February 17, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Galen Kronhofman, Board President, declared the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vickie Klein, Board Secretary