

## **MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING AUGUST 18, 2025**

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 18, 2025 with the following members present: Caroline Erickson, Deanne Favinger, Machelles Havenridge, Vickie Klein, Anita Krejdl, Galen Kronhofman, George Probasco, Denis Reese, Kim Scoville, and Gary Smidt.

Board President, Galen Kronhofman, opened the meeting at 7:21 p.m. and 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 18, 2025 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU 11 during the week of August 4, 2025 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.

No visitors were present.

Mr. Poppert reviewed the consent agenda items, including the minutes from the June 16, 2025 meeting and the financial reports and claims. Motion made by Machelles Havenridge, seconded by Deanne Favinger to approve the consent agenda as presented. 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.

Motion made by George Probasco, seconded by Deanne Favinger, to accept the resolution to raise restricted funds (property tax) portion of the general fund budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year by the allowable rate of one percent, in accordance with the provisions set forth in LB 299. 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.

Motion made by Vickie Klein, seconded by Kim Scoville, to approve the payment of LEXIA invoices for LETRS Training in this current fiscal year. 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.

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Wade Gibson, Media/Technology Director, reported that recent projects in Axtell, Elwood, and Wilcox are progressing. Axtell has a temporary wiring closet to support the newly installed intercom system for the new addition. ESU 11 has been assisting with network configurations to support the new security camera system in Elwood. The bus barn fiber project in Wilcox is nearing completion, and ESU 11 will be able to install the network equipment there. Wade also mentioned that a new Proxmox Backup Server was installed in July that is used to backup all of the various virtual machines running on Proxmox servers across the ESU 11 area.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that Summer Honors went well this June. Jessica Lofquist, HAL Instructor, is currently working to complete HAL grants for our districts and get them submitted to NDE by the end of the month. She is also working to fill the Computer Science instructor position and find a guidance counselor for next year's SHP. She will start going to schools this week to provide services for English Learners. Kate reported that Jody Bauer, Technology Curriculum Consultant, has been in the schools the last two weeks providing training on IXL, Mystery Science, and artificial intelligence. She is also working to coordinate a John Baylor ACT Prep program for juniors at The Tassel on September 11th. Next, Kate reported that the ESU 11 CLSD Literacy Consortium was awarded \$259,000 for Year 1. This money will be used to provide LETRS training to PreK-5th grade teachers, provide materials to support family literacy initiatives, purchase high quality instructional materials, Science of Reading training to 6-12 grade teachers, and literacy coaching. ESU 11 will partner with Wayne State College this year so teachers can earn 3 graduate credit hours for completing LETRS training. Year 1 funds must be spent by September 30, 2025, so Kate has been working to coordinate contracts and trainings to get as much of this done as possible; however, funds can be carried over into Year 2. In the next few weeks, she will work to identify the activities and create a budget for Year 2. Kate updated the board on the ESU 11 Fall Conference and that it will be held on October 6th. All session presenters and a keynote speaker have been secured, and the conference website is almost complete. Last, Kate reported that she, Jody Bauer, and Chelsey Jensen will be supporting Entry Year teachers on September 4th. They will be discussing parent teacher conferences, improving student engagement with technology, and inclusive practices for students receiving special education services.

Chelsey Jensen, Special Education Director, reported that the Planning Region Team (PRT) grant has been completed and submitted in July. This grant focuses on birth-to-5 services and referral efforts to identify students with diverse needs early. Chelsey has worked with districts in July and August to complete the Maintenance of Effort Eligibility reports and IDEA grants. Chelsey reported that she led two paraprofessional trainings at the ESU and one at Arapahoe Public Schools; all trainings were well attended. Chelsey will also be meeting with three schools to facilitate a training on MDT and IEP compliance, per their Corrective Action Plans from NDE. In September, Chelsey will work with districts to complete and submit Indicator 11 requirements to NDE. Indicator 11 focuses on transition planning requirements for students ages 14-21. Last, Chelsey mentioned that she will be attending college career fairs at Wayne State College

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on September 3rd, and UNK on September 4th, to advertise and recruit special education providers to ESU 11.

John Poppert, Unit Administrator, discussed the CLSD grant that was approved by the State Board of Education and how the funds will be spent in the next school year. He reminded the board that the budget needs to be filed by September 30th, so our 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 and valves cleaned out. One of the trees on the north end of the building broke off at the ground during the storm on August 8th, so Stewart Tree Service removed that for us. Mr. Poppert reported that the AESA Conference is in Colorado Springs on December 3rd through the 5th, and expressed his interest in attending along with the leadership team and interested board members. Last, Mr. Poppert reported that the new Chevy Trax will be at the ESU in mid-September for staff to use.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 and the 2025-2026 Budget/Property Tax Hearings will be held on September 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Galen Kronhofman, Board Vice President, called the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vickie Klein, Board Secretary