

## **MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 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 September 15, 2025 with the following members present: Caroline Erickson, Deanne Favinger, Machelles Havenridge, Vickie Klein, Anita Krejdl, George Probasco, Denis Reese, Kim Scoville, and Gary Smidt. Galen Kronhofman was absent.

Vice President Probasco called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and notification was made of the open meeting law.

Motion made by Gary Smidt, seconded by Deanne Favinger, to excuse the absence of Galen Kronhofman. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Public Notice that the regular monthly meeting of the Board of ESU #11 would be held on September 15, 2025 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU #11 during the week of September 1, 2025 and was broadcast over radio stations KUVR and KRVN on September 3, 2025. 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.

Board Vice President, George Probasco, opened the floor for public comment. No visitors were present for comment.

Board Vice President, George Probasco, asked the board members if they had any questions on the special board meeting minutes or the regular board meeting minutes from August 18, 2025. No questions were brought forward. Mr. Poppert, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from August 2025 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by Machelles Havenridge, seconded by Anita Krejdl, 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; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by Kim Scoville, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, to approve the 2025-2026 ESU #11 Budget as advertised. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; George

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Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by Denis Reese, seconded by Vickie Klein, to approve the 2025-2026 property tax request resolution as presented. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Motion made by Caroline Erickson, seconded by Kim Scoville, to approve the ALICAP safety audit as presented. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 9 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

Jessica Lofquist, High Ability Learners and English Learners Instructor, reported the new changes to Rule 3. These changes include: Rule 10 data must now be disaggregated by HAL; for students to be identified, the district must use three pieces of data – 1 qualitative, 1 quantitative, and another of either one; there will be portability of students between districts; HAL plan must be reviewed every five years; and new funding rules will allow districts to request money that is above what is given by the state.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that the Fall Conference will be held on October 6 at The Tassel and Holdrege High school. She is anticipating approximately 600 preschool through 12th grade teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals in attendance. All sessions can be viewed by going to the [Fall Conference website](#). Next, Kate reported that literacy funds (CLSD) are currently being used for the following online trainings: K-5 LETRS training, Early Childhood LETRS training, 6-12 Science of Reading, and 6-12 ELA Breakthrough Coaching launch.

Chelsey Jensen, Special Education Director, has been working on finalizing Indicator 11 documentation and submission for districts. Indicator 11 is due September 19 and focuses on initial evaluation and eligibility data for special education by district. She is continuing to work on submitting Indicator 13 documentation for districts. Indicator 13 focuses on transition requirements for students 14-21 years of age. Chelsey attended the Nebraska Association of Special Education Supervisors (NASES) Fall Conference last week, and had the opportunity to meet with NDE directly. Chelsey has also attended college career fairs at Wayne State College and UNK to advertise and recruit special education providers to ESU 11. Special Education Final Financials are due on October 31; ESU 11 completes 9 out of 13 districts' SPEDFRS so work has begun on those reports. Chelsey reported that Jamie Love and JoAnn Felix led a Developmental Disabilities workshop on September 3rd. They provided hands-on opportunities to learn vocational, social, independent living, and problem-solving skills. Students also had the opportunity to connect with their peers from other schools. Last, ESU 11 will host an Indicator 13 Transition Review workshop on September 18. Transition refers to planning for postsecondary opportunities for students with disabilities ages 14-21.

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Wade Gibson, Media/Technology Director, reported that the bus barn network project in Wilcox is now complete. Wade and Alex Wyatt have been engaged with a vendor that is preparing to install a new phone system in Alma. Wade mentioned that an E-Rate application for Minden to fund Wi-Fi on school buses has not been approved. He learned last week that all applications for this service have been put on hold nationally, and will likely not be funded. Wade also briefed the Board on a recent email phishing incident that disguised itself as a DocuSign document that propagated quickly across the state in recent weeks.

Mr. John Poppert, Unit Administrator, reported that the ESU 11 audit is scheduled for November 24. He shared that the State School Board Conference is coming up on November 19-21st and invited the board members to attend. Mr. Poppert briefly spoke about the building and grounds, and that he is in the process of finding a contractor to fix the cement on the northwest sidewalk. Mr. Poppert also inquired about the Hot Topics presentation and if the board would like to continue hosting this meeting. The board believes Hot Topics is beneficial for local school board members and would like this event to continue.

The next meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on October 20, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Board Vice President, George Probasco, declared the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vickie Klein, Board Secretary

**2025/2026 TAX REQUEST RESOLUTION  
FOR  
Educational Service Unit #11, Phelps County**

WHEREAS, public was given at least five days in advance of a Special Public Hearing called for the purpose of discussing and approving or modifying the ESU 11's Tax Requests for the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the General Fund of Educational Service Unit #11 (hereinafter "ESU 11"); and,

WHEREAS, such Special Public Hearing was held before the Board of Education (hereinafter "the Board") of ESU 11 at the time, date, and place announced in the notice published in a newspaper of general circulation, a copy of which notice and proof of publication of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, all as required by law; and,

WHEREAS, the Board provided an opportunity to receive comment, information and evidence from persons in attendance at such Special Hearing; and,

WHEREAS, the total assessed value of the property differs from last year's total assessed value by 11.80%; the tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property would be \$.011854 per \$100 of assessed value; ESU 11 proposes to adopt a property tax requests that will cause its tax rate to be \$.011854 per \$100 of assessed value.

WHEREAS, based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of ESU 11 will be more than last year's by 0%.

WHEREAS, the Board, after having reviewed the District's Tax Requests for each said fund, and after public consideration of the matter, has determined that the Final Tax Requests as listed below are necessary in order to carry out the functions of the District, as determined by the Board for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that (1) the Tax Request for the ESU 11 General Fund should be, and hereby is set at \$1,363,500.00.

It is so moved by Denis Reese and seconded by Vickie Klein this 15th day of September, 2025.

Roll Call vote as follows:

Board Member	YES	NO	ABSENT
Caroline Erickson	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____
Deanne Favinger	<u>  X  </u>	_____	<u>  —  </u>
Machelle Havenridge	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____
Vickie Klein	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____
Anita Krejdl	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____
Galen Kronhofman	_____	_____	<u>  X  </u>
George Probasco	<u>  X  </u>	_____	<u>  —  </u>
Denis Reese	<u>  X  </u>	_____	<u>  —  </u>
Kim Scoville	<u>  X  </u>	_____	_____
Gary Smidt	<u>  X  </u>	_____	<u>  —  </u>

The undersigned herewith certifies, as Secretary of the Board of Education of ESU 11 that the above Resolution was duly adopted by a majority of said Board at a duly constituted public meeting of said Board.

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Secretary