

MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 20, 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 October 20, 2025 with the following members present: Caroline Erickson, Deanne Favinger, Machelles Havenridge, Vickie Klein, Anita Krejdl, George Probasco, and Denis Reese. Galen Kronhofman, Kim Scoville, and Gary Smidt 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 20, 2025 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU 11 during the week of October 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.

Motion made by Machelles Havenridge, seconded by Vicki Klein, to excuse the absences of Galen Kronhofman, Kim Scoville, and Gary Smidt. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; George Probasco, yes; and Denis Reese, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Board Vice President, George Probasco, 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 15, 2025. No questions were brought forward. Mr. John Poppert, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from September 2025 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by Deanne Favinger, 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; and Denis Reese, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Caroline Erickson, seconded by Denis Reese, to appoint John Poppert as the state and federal programs administrator for ESU 11. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; George Probasco, yes; and Denis Reese, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Machelles Havenridge, seconded by Deanne Favinger, to approve the S.E.E.D Teacher/Educational Specialist Evaluation tool for ESU 11 Special Education certified staff. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes;

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Machelle Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; George Probasco, yes; and Denis Reese, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Deanne Favinger, seconded by Vickie Klein, to approve the school psychology supervision contract with Brenda Tracy as presented. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelle Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; George Probasco, yes; and Denis Reese, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that the Fall Conference was a hit! Out of approximately 650 participants, 157 individuals took time to provide feedback regarding our keynote speaker, Steve Gilliland. Eighty-eight percent of those individuals scored him at a 4 or 5, with 5 being the highest possible score. Other feedback provided indicated that teachers and administrators felt it was a productive day of learning. Next, Kate reported that the unit is working to compile Literacy Kits for schools that wish to have a Literacy Night during the course of the year. These kits are designed to enhance literacy skills by making reading an interactive and enjoyable experience for children through a collection of age-appropriate books and related activities. CLSD grant funds are supporting this activity. The CLSD Year 2 grant has been submitted to NDE. The ESU 11 CLSD reimbursement request for Year 1 has also been approved. Reimbursement requests must be made monthly. Kate is also finalizing contracts with DMGroup, who will work with two districts for ten weeks to assist in using data and smart goals to help improve student achievement and the district's MTSS process. Kate is finalizing orders to leverage funds to provide high quality instructional materials for English Language Arts. Kate has created an Implementation Snapshot so all stakeholders (Superintendents, Principals, and Teachers) are knowledgeable of what is going on.

Wade Gibson, Media/Technology Director, hosted a Technology Coordinator/LAN Managers meeting on October 8 that was well attended. He also mentioned that he and Jody Bauer would be leading the Librarians & Media Specialists meeting on Wednesday, October 22. Holdrege Public Schools will be the host site for this day, and they have a full agenda planned. Wade reported that ESU 11 will be hosting a Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan workshop on Wednesday, November 12. This will be a half day workshop where district teams can come to work on and complete their plans using a template developed by ESU 11.

Chelsey Jensen, Special Education Director, reported that she, Mandy Helms, and Jenna Lindstrom have been working on the Special Education Final Financial Reports (SPEDFRS) submission for the school districts. This report is due by October 31st. Chelsey is collaborating with ESU 10 to host a Maintenance of Effort (MOE 101) Workshop on November 6th at ESU 11. This workshop will be presented by Jean Anderson, ESU 10 SPED Director, and targets business managers, superintendents, and special education directors. Next, Chelsey reported that the ESU will host a 9th grade transition workshop on October 28th. Various personality assessments will be used to help students identify their unique strengths and skills. Chelsey plans to also host an ESU-Wide Special Education Meeting on December 16th; this meeting is open to all

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district special education staff. Last, Chelsey is working with NDE to apply for a recruitment and retention grant to hire and support school psychologists.

Mr. Poppert, Unit Administrator, reported that he is planning to host the Hot Topics meeting on January 28th. ESU 11 area superintendents and their school boards will be invited to attend. Mr. Poppert reported that the new Chevy Trax is still at the port in California, with no delivery date available.

Motion made by Anita Krejdl, seconded by Deanne Favinger, to enter Executive Session at 7:46 p.m. to discuss personnel. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; George Probasco, yes; and Denis Reese, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent. Board Vice President, George Probasco, restated the reason for Executive Session was to discuss personnel.

Motion made by Machelles Havenridge, seconded by Vickie Klein, to exit Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; George Probasco, yes; and Denis Reese, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Motion made by Caroline Erickson, seconded by Denis Reese, to enter Executive Session at 7:51 p.m. to discuss negotiations. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; George Probasco, yes; and Denis Reese, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent. Board Vice President, George Probasco, restated the reason for Executive Session was to discuss negotiations.

Motion made by Caroline Erickson, seconded by Denis Reese, to exit Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelles Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes; George Probasco, yes; and Denis Reese, yes. Motion carried 7 yes, 0 no, 3 absent.

Board Vice President, George Probasco, declared the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on November 17, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vickie Klein, Board Secretary