

MINUTES OF THE ESU #11 BOARD MEETING November 17, 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 located at 412 West 14th Avenue in Holdrege, Nebraska on November 17, 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. No members were absent.

Notification was made of the open meetings law. The open meeting laws were on display throughout the Board Meeting.

Public Notice that the regular monthly meeting of the Board of ESU 11 would be held on November 17, 2025 was published in newspapers of general circulation in the counties making up ESU 11 during the week of November 3, 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.

Board President, Galen Kronhofman, asked the board members if they had any questions on the regular board meeting minutes from October 20, 2025. No questions were brought forward. Mr. John Poppert, Unit Administrator, reviewed the General Fund Financial Report from October 2025 and the General Fund Claims for Payment. Motion made by Kim Scoville, seconded by Machelles Havenridge, 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 Gary Smidt, seconded by Denis Reese, to approve the purchase of Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce Bucks for all staff. 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 approve the cancelation of all Deaf and Hard of Hearing contracts on the ESU 11 MSA and allow ESU 10 to offer contracts for those services beginning on January 1, 2026. 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 Machelles Havenridge, seconded by Kim Scoville, to approve the ESU 10 contract for Deaf and Hard of Hearing effective immediately through December

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31, 2025. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelie 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.

Chelsey Jensen, Director of Special Education, reported that the ESU hosted a Speech Language Pathologists workshop for all ESU 11 districts on November 14th. Chelsey attended the Tristate Regional Special Education Law Conference in Omaha with two of our school psychologists, Jessica Edeal and Halsie Hamilton. They learned about updates to state and federal policies and procedures for special education. Mr. Poppert and Chelsey also attended the Fort Hays State University Career Fair on November 7th. They spoke with several students who expressed interest in Speech-Language Pathology as well as special education positions. Next, Chelsey attended the Central Region Transition Cohort meeting in Grand Island with JoAnn Felix. They worked to plan transition workshops and activities for students ages 14-21. Chelsey is working on the Proportionate Share reporting for districts' non-public students. This report is due on December 15th. NDE requires public school districts to set aside federal and state funds to provide equitable service to eligible students in non-public schools, including homeschools. Last, Chelsey reported that ESU 11 collaborated with ESU 10 to host the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) 101 workshop. Eighteen participants engaged in strong discussion and left with a clearer understanding of the procedures for determining and maintaining district maintenance of effort.

Kate Hatch, Staff Development Director, reported that High Ability Learner Instructor, Jessica Lofquist, has been conducting numerous enrichment activities in the schools. This month her activities use code.org, which reinforces foundational skills in computer science, spark creativity, and develop problem-solving abilities. She is also providing non-tech activities such as straw tower builds. This activity teaches engineering principals like structural integrity, stability, and load distribution. Kate reported that unofficially, the Summer Honors Program raised approximately \$7,500 during Give to Grow. Next, Kate mentioned that her and Jody will hold the last professional learning community for core content areas. The Visual Arts PLC will be held in February. The 2024-2025 Nebraska Education Profile data will be available to the public on November 26th on the NDE website. The Staff Development department has also been working on literacy kits and has distributed 1,300 kits to grades PreK-2. Kate has submitted the second request for reimbursement of CLSD funds last week.

Mr. Poppert, Unit Administrator, informed the board that the Educators Health Alliance (EHA) premiums would increase 7.44% for the 2026-2027 year; that is a premium increase of \$2,040 for a family health insurance plan. Mr. Poppert briefly spoke on the Cyber Security workshop that Wade Gibson hosted last week. The workshop was well attended and beneficial for all districts in the ESU 11 area. Last, Mr. Poppert reported that the Chevy Trax was in Nebraska and should be to the ESU by Monday.

Motion made by Anita Krejdl, seconded by Vickie Klein, to enter Executive Session at 5:24 p.m. to discuss negotiations. Vote as follows: Caroline Erickson, yes; Deanne Favinger, yes; Machelie Havenridge, yes; Vickie Klein, yes; Anita Krejdl, yes;

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Galen Kronhofman, yes; George Probasco, yes; Denis Reese, yes; Kim Scoville, yes; and Gary Smidt, yes. Motion carried 10 yes, 0 no, 0 absent.

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

Motion made by George Probasco, seconded by Deanne Favinger, to exit Executive Session at 5:54 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.

Board President, Galen Kronhofman, declared the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit #11 will be held on December 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vickie Klein, Board Secretary