Board Minutes

The Board of Educational Service Unit No. 5 met on Monday, April 13, 2020 at the offices of ESU 5 in Beatrice, Nebraska. Chair Vic Jacobson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He acknowledged that this was an open meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and notice of such was published in the Beatrice Daily Sun and Hebron Journal Register the week of April 1, 2020. Roll call was taken.
Present in person were board members Darlene Pierce, Lorna McMurray, Duane Smith, Roger Smidt, Administrator Brenda McNiff, and Board Treasurer Jan Reimer. Present via Zoom were Chair Jacobson, Jeannine Murphy, and Recording Secretary Vicki Frerking.

Roger Smidt moved to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Lorna McMurray. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Duane Smith moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2020 meeting; seconded by Roger Smidt. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Roger Smidt moved to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2020 special meeting; seconded by Lorna McMurray. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Duane Smith moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report for April, 2020 and authorize payment of bills in the amount of $527,286.78; seconded by Jeannine Murphy. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Old Business

New Business

Duane Smith moved to approve the resignation of Kristen Banahan, Speech Pathologist at Meridian Public Schools, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year; seconded by Darlene Pierce. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Roger Smidt moved to approve the resignation of Erin Criner, Speech Pathologist at Thayer Central Community Schools effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year; seconded by Darlene Pierce. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Darlene Pierce moved to approve a 197 day contract for Brittany Andrews to serve as an ESU 5 Spanish Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of $56,666; seconded by Jeannine Murphy. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Jeannine Murphy moved to approve a 195 day contract for Christina Schroeder to serve as an ESU 5 Spanish Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of $50,081; seconded by Roger Smidt. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.
Lorna McMurray moved to approve an additional $5,000 for Kelsey Koranda for the 2020-2021 school year to bring her in-line with the other LMHP staff as Kelsey has now received her full certification as a LMHP for the State of Nebraska; seconded by Roger Smidt. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Roger Smidt moved to have the board of ESU 5 go into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. for discussion of the Administrator Contract; seconded by Jeannine Murphy. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Roger Smidt moved the board of ESU 5 come out of Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.; seconded by Duane Smith. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Administrator Updates

Administrator McNiff informed the board that ESU 5 is in compliance with the COVID-19 regulations as they routinely have only three staff members in the building on any given day. The building is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Administrator McNiff informed the board that Vicki Hinz-Ensz has agreed to fulfill the term of Deb Meyer and will be appointed to the ESU 5 board in May. Vicki will be in attendance at the May, 2020 meeting.

Administrator McNiff informed the board that under the CARES Act, school districts are slated to receive funds equal to 80% of their previous year’s State of Nebraska funds. There is some opposition to this being voiced by Nebraska Senator Groene.

No one was in attendance to provide public comment on any items.

The next meeting will be held Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the offices of ESU 5.

With no further business, Lorna McMurray moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Roger Smidt. Motion passed by consensus.

President Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Victoria Freerking, Board Recording Secretary
Educational Service Unit #5
Gage, Jefferson, Thayer Counties
Nebraska

Brenda McNiff, Administrator
Educational Service Unit #5
Gage, Jefferson, Thayer Counties
Nebraska