Board Minutes

March 9, 2020

The Board of Educational Service Unit No. 5 met on Monday, March 9, 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 February 26, 2020. Roll call was taken. Present were board members Vic Jacobson, Darlene Pierce, Lorna McMurray, Duane Smith, Roger Smidt, Jeannine Murphy, Administrator Brenda McNiff, Board Treasurer Jan Reimer, and Recording Secretary Vicki Frerking. Absent was board member Deb Meyer.

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

Roger Smidt moved to approve the minutes of the February 2020 meeting with the addition that Deb Meyer was absent; seconded by Duane Smith. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Roger Smidt moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report for March 2020 and authorize payment of bills in the amount of $456,445.37; seconded by Duane Smith. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote. Treasurer Reimer distributed the annual audit report.

Old Business

Duane Smith moved to approve board member Deb Meyer’s submitted resignation as she is retiring and moving; seconded by Lorna McMurray. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote. The Board thanks Deb for her many years of service.

Vic Jacobson will report on the Administrator Evaluation/Contract later in the meeting.

New Business

Administrator McNiff presented options and recommendations for the 2020-2021 compensation package for all employees with the exception of Jen McNally, Regina Oliver, Jan Reimer and Matt McNiff. The proposal would increase the base salary by $685 per month and increase the full family health insurance allowance to $1,600 per month. The health insurance allowance for employee/spouse, employee/children and employee only would remain the same at $1,300 a month for professional staff and $500 per month for non-professional staff. A cap of $1,000 per month in lieu of health insurance, would be placed in a 403b for all newly hired employees. The current 18 employees that receive cash in lieu of health insurance at $1,300 per month will be grandfathered in at that level. Administrator McNiff also proposes moving from the duel deductible option of $1050/$2,500 to $1050/$3600 to allow employees the option to contribute to a health savings account. This represents a 4.0% increase on base with a 3.8% increase on total package. Roger Smidt moved to approve the proposed compensation package as presented; seconded by Darlene Pierce. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.
Duane Smith moved to approve the promotion of Jen McNally to ESU 5 Director of Mental Health and Wellness and approve a 200 day contract for 2020-21 as presented; seconded by Lorna McMurray. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Roger Smidt moved to approve an additional $5,000 per year for Regina Oliver for managing the School Climate Transformation Grant; seconded by Jeannine Murphy. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote. It is noted that ESU 5 will receive indirect costs in the amount of $82,560 over the five year period of the grant.

Roger Smidt moved to approve an additional $5,000 per year for Jan Reimer for the additional paperwork and reporting related to the School Climate Transformation Grant; seconded by Darlene Pierce. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Lorna McMurray moved to approve Matt McNiff’s 220 day contract for 2020-21 as presented by Board President, Vic Jacobson; seconded by Duane Smith. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Chair Jacobson updated the board on the yearly Administrator evaluations. He is gathering Administrator evaluations from member school Superintendents and will request evaluations from ESU 5 Board members and ESU 5 Department Directors. He hopes to have the evaluations tabulated for the April Board meeting.

**Administrator Updates**

Instructors for the three positions in the Spanish and Science Programs have been secured and will sign contracts in April.

Work to provide Technology Support for Beatrice Public Schools will begin this summer.

The Alternative Education Program in Hebron will be discontinued for the 2020-2021 school year and will be reevaluated in January 2021.

Ten more 3D printers will be ordered for the EKCO Project. This will allow for each member school to have 3D printers on site.

Weekly updates are received from the Nebraska State Board of Education regarding the criteria to be followed by Nebraska school districts concerning the COVID-19 virus.

**Public Comment**

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

**Adjourn**

The next meeting will be held Monday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m. at ESU 5.
With no further business, Roger Smidt moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jeannine Murphy. Motion passed by consensus.

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

Brenda McNiff, Administrator
Educational Service Unit #5
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