

Educational Service Unit #5

Board Minutes

August 11, 2025

The Board of Educational Service Unit No. 5 met on Monday, August 12, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of ESU 5 in Beatrice, Nebraska. Present were board members Roger Smidt, Duane Smith, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Tim McAllister, Betty Meyer, Jeannine Murphy, Administrator Brenda McNiff; Board Treasurer Jan Reimer; Board Recording Secretary Vicki Frerking. Board member Carla Loemker was absent.

President Roger Smidt 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 July 29, 2025.

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

Tim McAllister moved to approve the minutes of the May meeting; seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Betty Meyer moved to approve the June 9, 2025 Treasurer's Report and ratify payment of bills in the amount \$647,645.18; seconded by Jeannine Murphy. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Roger Smidt moved to approve the July 14, 2025 Treasurer's Report and ratify payment of bills in the amount of \$598,902.55; seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Jeannine Murphy moved to approve the August 11, 2025 Treasurer's report and authorize payment of the bills in the amount of \$621,495.40; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Old Business

New Business

NDE is required to complete a Fiscal Monitoring Review on all Federal grants every five years. Esu 5 had their Fiscal Review in May with no discrepancies found. No Board action required.

Roger Smidt moved to retain Dana F. Cole & Company for the 2024-25 audit; seconded by Duane Smith. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Betty Meyer moved to approve the Employee Home Base assignments for 2025-2026 as presented; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Tim McAllister moved to declare two vinyl printers as surplus and dispose of them properly; seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote.

Administrator Update

The AESA Conference will be held in Colorado Springs December 3-5, 2025. Jen McNally and Brenda McNiff will present. Board members are to let Jan Reimer know as soon as possible if they plan to attend.

Administrator McNiff informed the board of the increase in staff in the past 10 years. ESU 5 staff has grown from 35 to 60 since 2015-2016 due to added programs and the growth of current ones. Daisy Langston, SPED Administrative Assistant, was hired to assist the Special Ed Department. Tammy Wurm will continue to do Special Ed Final Financials for the districts and will assist ESU 5 Business Manager, Jan Reimer, with other duties as assigned. No Board action required.

Administrator McNiff will email a preliminary budget to board members in mid August prior to the Budget Hearing and approval at the regular ESU 5 Board meeting on September 8, 2025.

Administrator McNiff informed the board that ESU 5 has been awarded a \$1.2 million Nebraska Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Federal Grant over the next five years to boost literacy achievement for K-12 students with Literacy Coaches and by initiating LETRS Literacy Training for district schools. No Board action required.

Administrator McNiff discussed possible education bills for the 2026 Legislature session.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:10 p.m. The next board meeting will be Monday, September 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of ESU 5, preceded by a Budget Hearing at 5:00 p.m. at ESU 5.



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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