

Educational Service Unit #5

Board Minutes

January 12, 2026

The Board of Educational Service Unit No. 5 met on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of ESU 5 in Beatrice, Nebraska. Present were board members Duane Smith, Jeannine Murphy, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Tim McAllister, and Carla Loemker; Administrator Brenda McNiff; Board Treasurer Jan Reimer; Board Recording Secretary Vicki Frerking. Board members excused were Roger Smidt and Betty Meyer.

Vice-President Vicki Hinz-Ensz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She acknowledged 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 January 1, 2026.

Vicki Hinz-Ensz moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an Executive Session; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed on roll call vote 5-0.

Carla Loemker moved to approve the previous meeting minutes from November 2025 as presented; seconded by Jeannine Murphy. Motion passed on roll call vote 5-0.

Tim McAllister moved to approve the December treasurer's report and ratify payment of bills in the amount of \$806,570.44; seconded by Jeannine Murphy. Motion passed on roll call vote of 5-0.

Duane Smith moved to approve the January treasurer's report and authorize payment of bills in the amount of \$634,402.15; seconded by Carla Loemker. Motion passed on roll call vote 5-0.

Old Business

Administrator McNiff began the process of reorganization of the ESU 5 Board of Directors' officer positions. Administrator McNiff opened nominations for Board President. Vicki Hinz-Ensz nominated Roger Smidt for the position of President and moved nominations cease with a unanimous vote cast for Roger Smidt to serve as President; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Duane Smith nominated Vicki Hinz-Ensz for the position of Vice-President and moved nominations cease with a unanimous vote cast for Vicki Hinz-Ensz to serve as Vice-President; seconded by Carla Loemker. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote with Vicki Hinz-Ensz abstaining.

Tim McAllister nominated Duane Smith for the position of Board Secretary and moved nominations cease with a unanimous vote cast for Duane Smith to serve as Board Secretary; seconded by Carla Loemker. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Vice-Chair Hinz-Ensz appointed Jan Reimer as ESU 5 Board Treasurer and Victoria Frerking as ESU 5 Recording Secretary. No vote was necessary.

Vicki Hinz-Ensz moved to retain Security First Bank of Beatrice as the repository and the general fund account bank of ESU 5; seconded by Duane Smith. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Vicki Hinz-Ensz moved to retain Perry Law Firm as legal counsel for ESU 5; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

New Business

Tim McAllister moved to approve the updated Non-Discrimination policy as required due to new legislation; seconded by Duane Smith. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Carla Loemker moved to approve out-of-state travel for Special Education Director Brenda Tracy to attend the Council for Advancement and Support of Education January 28-31 in Nashville, TN; seconded by Jeannine Murphy. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Administrator Update

Administrator McNiff spoke of Legislative items pertaining to Education and budget deficits.

Administrator McNiff is gathering information on statewide negotiations for the 2026-27 school year. The recommended ESU 5 staff compensation package will be presented at the February board meeting.

Executive Session

Vicki Hinz-Ensz moved the board enter into Executive session at 6:39 p.m.; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Tim McAllister moved the board come out of Executive session at 7:29 p.m.; seconded by Duane Smith. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote as board member Murphy had to leave at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment

With no further business, Vicki Hinz-Ensz moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Carla Loemker. Motion passed 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m. The next board meeting will be Monday, February 9 at 5:00 p.m. at the offices of ESU 5. An appreciation dinner will follow the meeting for board members, department heads, and spouses.



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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