

Educational Service Unit #5

Board Minutes

January 13, 2025

The Board of Educational Service Unit No. 5 met on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of ESU 5 in Beatrice, Nebraska. Present were board members Roger Smidt, Duane Smith, Jeannine Murphy, Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Betty Meyer, Tim McAllister, and Carla Loemker; Administrator Brenda McNiff; Board Treasurer Jan Reimer; Board Recording Secretary Vicki Frerking. No board members were absent.

President Roger Smidt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He 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, 2025.

Roger Smidt moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Administrator discussion of Power School; seconded by Jeannine Murphy. Motion passed on roll call vote 7-0.

Tim McAllister moved to approve the December 2024 minutes as presented; seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed on roll call vote 7-0.

Carla Loemker moved to approve the January treasurer's report and authorize payments in the amount of \$585,919.32; seconded by Betty Meyer. Motion passed on roll call vote of 6-0, with Duane Smith abstaining.

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 Carla Loemker. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote with Roger Smidt abstaining.

Roger Smidt 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 Betty Meyer. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote with Vicki Hinz-Ensz abstaining.

Roger Smidt 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 Tim McAllister. Motion passed 6-0 on roll call vote with Duane Smith abstaining.

Chair Smidt appointed Jan Reimer as ESU 5 Board Treasurer and Victoria Frerking as ESU 5 Recording Secretary. No vote was necessary.

Carla Loemker moved to retain Security First Bank of Beatrice as the repository and the general fund account bank of ESU 5; seconded by Betty Meyer. Motion passed 7-0 on roll call vote.

Roger Smidt moved to retain Perry Law Firm as legal counsel for ESU 5; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 7-0 on roll call vote.

Jeannine Murphy moved to approve the final reading of the Leave of Absence Policy provided by Perry Law Firm; seconded by Roger Smidt. Motion passed 7-0 on roll call vote.

New Business

Vicki Hinz-Ensz moved to adopt a policy update to Article 2- Board Meetings –*Notice of Meetings* as provided by Perry Law Firm; seconded by Betty Meyer. Motion passed 7-0 on roll call vote.

Administrator Update

Administrator McNiff presented her report prior to the Board entering into Executive Session.

She updated the board on NDE's implementation of regional Literacy Coaches as detailed in LB1284. NDE is partnering with ESUCC and Educational Service Units in this program.

Administrator McNiff noted that today was the first day of the session for legislation to be introduced into Nebraska Unicameral. She will keep the board informed of introduced bills as they pertain to education.

Administrator McNiff is gathering information on statewide negotiations for the 2025-26 school year. The recommended ESU 5 staff compensation package will be presented at the February board meeting.

Administrator McNiff spoke with the board about the recent PowerSchool data breach. The breach was at the national level.

Executive Session

Roger Smidt moved the board enter into Executive session at 6:49 p.m. for discussion of the Administrator's 2025-26 compensation package; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 7-0 on roll call vote.

Roger Smidt moved the board come out of Executive session at 7:01 p.m.; seconded by Carla Loemker. Motion passed 7-0 on roll call vote.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m. by consensus. The next board meeting will be Monday, February 10 at 5:00 p.m. at the offices of ESU5. 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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