

Educational Service Unit #5

Board Minutes

March 10, 2025

The Board of Educational Service Unit No. 5 met on Monday, March 10, 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, and Carla Loemker; Administrator Brenda McNiff; Board Treasurer Jan Reimer; Board Recording Secretary Vicki Frerking. Jeannine Murphy and Betty Meyer were absent. Prior to the board convening, Ryan McDowell, IT Director, gave a presentation on the firewalls for ESU 5 and districts.

President Roger Smidt called the meeting to order at 6:40 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 27, 2025.

Roger Smidt moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Carla Loemker moved to approve the minutes of the February meeting; seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Roger Smidt moved to approve the March treasurer's report and authorize payments in the amount of \$643,873.79; seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Old Business

Duane Smith moved to approve a revised contract for Mandy Smidt, Educational Diagnostician, who is completing her School Psychologist Degree with ESU to provide employee assistance; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 4-0 on roll call vote with Roger Smidt abstaining.

New Business

Tim McAllister moved to approve the resignation of Kim Ramirez, Spanish Teacher, effective at the completion of her 2024-25 contract; seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Carla Loemker moved to approve the resignation of Barb Gross, Behavior Consultant, effective at the completion of her 2024-25 contract; seconded by Tim McAllister. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Tim McAllister moved to approve a 195 day contract for Trisha Hintz, Literacy Specialist, for the 2025-26 school year; seconded by Carla Loemker. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Roger Smidt moved to approve a 195 day contract for Kirsten McGill, Mental Health Practitioner, for the 2025-26 school year; seconded by Vicki Hinz-Ensz. Motion passed 5-0 on roll call vote.

Administrator Update

Administrator McNiff updated the board on the Nebraska Legislature Literacy Grant which requires ESU's to hire a Literacy Coach. Joni Runge has served as the Literacy Coach for the second semester of 2025.

Administrator McNiff updated the board on the Nebraska Comprehensive Literacy Development Grant application information. There will be 18 competitive grants over five years for public, private schools and vendors.

Public Comment

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

Adjournment

With no further business, President Smidt moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m.; seconded by Carla Loemker. The motion passed by consensus.

The next board meeting will be Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of ESU 5. It was noted that there will not be a board meeting in July.



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



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