

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT 17
207 N. Main St. – Ainsworth, NE 69210
February 10, 2025

Present: Jody Dexter, Jan Knispel (Zoom), Mark Ormesher, Gerry Carr, Connie Lentz, Roxie Lindquist, Jean Pinney, Bruce Ferguson, Geraldine Erickson, and Marit Kaiser

Administrator Geraldine Erickson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The posting of the Open Meetings Act was acknowledged. The meeting notice was published on the ESU 17 website and on the front doors of ESU 17, Ainsworth Community Schools, Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools, Keya Paha County Schools, Rock County Public Schools, Valentine Community Schools and published in the Ainsworth Star Journal, Rock County Leader, Springview Herald, and Valentine Midland News.

1. The election of officers was discussed. A motion was made by Jody Dexter to retain the current officers for one more year. The motion was seconded by Jean Pinney. Bruce Ferguson made a motion that nominations cease. Roll call vote was unanimous.
2. Roxie Lindquist made a motion with a second from Gerry Carr to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024, meeting. Roll call vote was unanimous.
3. Jody Dexter made a motion with a second from Connie Lentz to approve the agenda as printed. Roll call vote was unanimous.
4. Jan Knispel made a motion with a second from Jody Dexter to approve the December 31, 2024, financial report with an ending balance of \$1,900,643.86 and the January 31, 2025, financial report with an ending balance of \$2,036,738.04. Roll call vote was unanimous.
5. The listing of bills and claims was reviewed. Jan Knispel made a motion with a second from Roxie Lindquist to approve payment of claims totaling \$443,576.11 for January and \$458,950.13 for February, apart from check #3176. Roll call vote was unanimous.
6. Geraldine led a brief discussion regarding the administrative report. The Nebraska Legislature is discussing bills regarding taxing authority, NPERS contributions, beginning teacher pay, teacher certification requirements, and opportunity scholarships.

7. Jean Pinney made a motion to retain the current members on the negotiations committee and building committee. Jody Dexter seconded the motion. Roll call vote was in favor 7 to 1.
8. A motion was made by Jan Knispel to renew the Administrator's contract with a 3.5% increase in salary, as well as to change the contract language to a firm beginning and ending date. Gerry Carr seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous.
9. Present board members reviewed and signed the Code of Ethics.
10. Jean Pinney made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 calendar along with a second from Connie Lentz. Roll call vote was unanimous.
11. Gerry Carr made a motion to approve and pay the bills and claims in the absence or delay of a meeting in March with a second from Roxie Lindquist. Roll call vote was unanimous.
12. A motion was made by Jean Pinney to approve the NASB membership and the paying of check #3176 for said membership. Jody Dexter seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous.
13. Jody Dexter made a motion to appoint Kelli Gibson as Non-discrimination Compliance Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. Bruce Ferguson seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous.
14. Gerry Carr made a motion to approve the audit report with a second from Connie Lentz. Roll call vote was unanimous.
15. Jan Knispel made a motion to approve the negotiated agreement which includes the following terms:
 1. Increase the amount of non-index wage to \$31,182.
 2. Speech- Language Pathologists and Occupational Therapists will be placed on the salary schedule with a 10% responsibility factor of the base salary added.
 3. Special Education (Resource) teachers will be placed on the salary schedule with a 5% responsibility factor of the base salary added.
 4. The base salary will increase to \$36,100.00Roxie Lindquist seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous.
16. Jody Dexter made a motion to accept the resignation of Rhonda Eis, ESUCC, at the end of February; and Susan Haskell, SLP, at the end

of her current and summer contract. Jean Pinney seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous.

17. A motion was made to approve the hiring of Jasmine Kunz, SLP; and Heather Lutter, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, by Jean Pinney. Jan Knispel seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous.
18. Gerry Carr made a motion with a second from Bruce Ferguson to approve the changes to Article 2, Section 6 of the policy. Roll call vote was unanimous.
19. The next board meeting will be March 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. with a Zoom option.
20. Jean Pinney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Secretary