

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT 17
113 N. Hall St. – Valentine, NE 69201
January 10, 2024

Present: Jody Dexter, Jan Knispel, Mark Ormesher (Arrived at 10:15 a.m.), Gerry Carr, Lisa Chohon, Roxie Lindquist, Geraldine Erickson, Jan Foster, and Marit Kaiser

Absent: Jean Pinney and Bruce Ferguson

Administrator Geraldine Erickson called the meeting to order at 10:07 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 nominate Mark Ormesher as President. The motion was seconded by Jan Knispel. Roxie Lindquist made a motion that nominations cease. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jean Pinney, Bruce Ferguson, and Mark Ormesher. A motion was made by Gerry Carr to nominate Jan Knispel for Vice President. The motion was seconded by Roxie Lindquist. Jody Dexter made a motion that nominations cease. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jean Pinney, Bruce Ferguson, and Mark Ormesher. A motion was made by Roxie Lindquist to nominate Gerry Carr for Secretary. The motion was seconded by Jody Dexter. Jan Knispel made a motion that nominations cease. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jean Pinney, Bruce Ferguson, and Mark Ormesher.
2. Lisa Chohon made a motion with a second from Gerry Carr to approve the agenda as printed. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jean Pinney, Bruce Ferguson, and Mark Ormesher.
3. Lisa Chohon made a motion with a second from Jody Dexter to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023, meeting. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jean Pinney, Bruce Ferguson, and Mark Ormesher.
4. Jody Dexter made a motion with a second from Jan Knispel to approve the November 30, 2023, financial report with an ending balance of

\$1,716,754.56 and the December 31, 2023, financial report with an ending balance of \$1,916,659.75. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jean Pinney and Bruce Ferguson.

5. The listing of bills and claims was reviewed. Roxie Lindquist made a motion with a second from Gerry Carr to approve payment of claims totaling \$413,388.64 for December and \$419,607.04 for January. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jean Pinney and Bruce Ferguson.
6. Geraldine led a brief discussion regarding the administrative report. The Nebraska Legislature is back in session. Senator Linehan has made a request to the Nebraska Secretary of State to remove the “school choice” measure from the ballot. This measure was passed by the 2023 legislature, but a petition drive was successful in adding it to the ballot for the 2024 election.
7. Jan Foster spoke about her employment progression at ESU 17. She began at the Tech Center in 2004. A year later she moved to the administrative assistant position. The following year, coop sorting duties were added to her position. She became the business manager in 2008. Her two biggest challenges have been aligning our books with the federally mandated coding and switching to the AptaFund accounting system. She thanked everyone for a great twenty years.
8. Jeff McQuistan spoke about the Data Dig which will be a week from Monday including AQuESTT (A Quality Education System Today and Tomorrow) school district classifications. Testing is completed in grades 3-8 as well as based off ACT scores in grade 11. Our schools had the highest results throughout the ESU areas. Cody-Kilgore – Excellent; Valentine - Excellent; Ainsworth – Great; Keya-Paha – Great; Rock County – Excellent.
9. Jody Dexter made a motion to retain the current members on the negotiations committee and building committee. Lisa Chohon seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jean Pinney and Bruce Ferguson.
10. Discussion took place on the renewal of the Administrator’s contract. The board proposed to renew the contract with a 3% increase on the total package.
11. Present board members reviewed and signed the Code of Ethics.

12. Lisa Chohon made a motion to excuse the absence of board members Jean Pinney and Bruce Ferguson. This motion was seconded by Gerry Carr. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jean Pinney and Bruce Ferguson.
13. Jody Dexter made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 calendar along with a second from Roxie Lindquist. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jean Pinney and Bruce Ferguson.
14. Lisa Chohon made a motion to approve and pay the bills and claims in the absence or delay of a meeting in February with a second from Roxie Lindquist. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jean Pinney and Bruce Ferguson.
15. Roxie Lindquist made a motion to appoint Jeff McQuistan as Non-discrimination Compliance Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator. Gerry Carr seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jean Pinney and Bruce Ferguson.
16. Lisa Chohon made a motion to approve the audit report with a second from Gerry Carr. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jean Pinney and Bruce Ferguson.
17. Jody Dexter made a motion to accept the resignation of Stephanie Fling with a second from Roxie Lindquist. Roll call vote was unanimous. Absent: Jean Pinney and Bruce Ferguson.
18. The next board meeting will be February 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. with a Zoom option.
19. Jan Knispel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Secretary